BRITISH MUSEUM

JOHN BULL

Vol. VIII. No. 194. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1910. ONE PENNY.

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For the Meaning of this No. see Page 258.

No. 395683

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Vol. VIII. No. 194. Saturday, February 19th, 1910. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

We are indebted to the *Daily News* for the interesting information that the new Parliament comprises 52 Congregationalists, 15 Baptists, 26 Wesleyan Methodists, 9 Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, 8 Primitive Methodists, 3 United Methodists, 5 Friends, 7 Unitarians, and 2 Presbyterians. But neither our good contemporary nor any other journal, as far as we are aware, has made any calculation of the number of practical politicians. Meanwhile, isn't it about time that the Wesleyan, the Welsh Calvinistic, the Primitive and the United Methodists considered the question of amalgamation—or will each of them be a separate party, with an official Whip?

The new House will also comprise no less than seven ordained ministers of religion—one for every day of the week, including Sundays—and yet we pay £400 a year to a Chaplain to say prayers for us at the beginning of each sitting! Four hundred pounds—equal to ten thousand Christmas dinners for the poor! But that would not be true religion!

We notice that the *Daily Telegraph* recently reported as an item of news that a rector was defendant in a judgment summons at a County Court in respect to a debt of £2; that the judge committed him for eight days, but suspended the order for a month; and that a payment of £1 at the end of the month was to afford the debtor a respite of another month. We do not quote this as an item of sensational news, but as an instance of the unwarrantable interference of certain newspapers with the private affairs of private persons. We should like to alter the law and make it libellous to refer in print to any County Court proceedings for debt. Why should a man be pilloried when his only fault is that he happens to be hard up for the moment?

With all our respect for Mr. Lloyd George, we must protest against the idea of getting up a testimonial to him in the form of thousands of shillings. He cannot be in urgent need of money now that he enjoys a salary far larger than he was brought up to expect, and we are sure that it will do much to impair his popularity if he permits anyone to cadge for doles on his behalf. Let him take a leaf out of Disraeli's book and remember that that statesman emphatically refused to accept a gold wreath for which a certain Tracy Turnerelli solicited pennies from the populace.

We observe that during the election in Spen Valley a local paper published an apology to Sir Thomas Whittaker for a statement which had appeared in its columns to the effect that the great apostle of temperance had embarked upon "a successful deal in public-house property on behalf of his company," having been "informed" by no less an authority than Sir Thomas himself that such statement was "altogether and absolutely untrue." What subtle distinction is meant between "altogether" and "absolutely" we know not; but up to the present *we* have not been called upon to withdraw our statement that the property of the Temperance Insurance Office of which Sir Thomas is Chairman includes a public-house, the rent of which is paid direct to the Society.

Nor has Sir Thomas ever repudiated our charge that when acting some years ago as editor of a financial journal, he strongly recommended brewery shares as sound and desirable investments—especially when they comprised tied houses. It is true that he says he was not directly responsible for such advice, and that he seeks to throw the blame on a member of his staff; but, at the same time, he was supporting a clause in the Licensing Bill which made the captain of a steamboat responsible if a single passenger were found intoxicated on his vessel! The local paper, therefore, need not have been so abject in its apology.

Mr. Balfour said hard words about Ure, but for a lovely thumper, a poster put out on behalf of Sir A. Cripps, K.C., in South Bucks, would be hard to beat. Here it is: "Home Rule to the Boers, Granted by the Liberals. Cost 250 millions and 40,000 Lives. Vote for Cripps." The curious thing is that Cripps is by way of being religious, as well as Tory. What would Mr. Balfour like to say about Cripps in honour of the occasion!

Having made exhaustive enquiries through special channels into the circumstances attending the death of Earl Percy, we are satisfied that there is no ground whatever for the sinister rumours which have recently been afloat, and that the cause of death was double pneumonia accompanied by pleurisy. It is extraordinary how these rumours get about!

Isn't it just a little unfair of certain papers to insist upon describing a recent murder as "The Racecourse Crime"?

Two more mems. for the Business Government! Why should the Postmaster-Generalship be a *political* appointment, and why should Divorce be part of the judicial department of Admiralty and Probate? Just think it over.

How the idea of a Business Government is catching on! Here is the *Glasgow Evening News* pleading for it. "Why not a Business Government? What is needed at the present moment, if we cannot have it always, is a Government that would devote itself to business, first and last." Hear, hear, and loud applause.

And even the Peers are taking up the cry! Here, for instance, is Lord Inverclyde, at a Glasgow shipowners' dinner, saying, "It would do a great deal of good to have one or two gentlemen from the commercial world in the Cabinet, who would look at matters from a purely business point of view." It would, indeed. And here is the *Nottingham Evening Post* arguing for "Commercial Statesmen," following a resolution of the Notts and Derbyshire Traders' Association pleading for a commercial head of the Board of Trade.

We have before us the Annual Report of the Minister of Finance with respect to the unclaimed balances in the hands of Canadian bankers—that is to say, monies and securities in connection with which no transactions have taken place or upon which no interest has been paid for the last five years. It covers seven hundred large pages and discloses unclaimed balances amounting to nearly 600,000 dollars. And that is in such a new and sparsely populated place as Canada. What would it be in the home and heart of the banking world? Come, come, Mr. Lloyd George!

Returning home late the other night, after a meeting at Hackney, we noticed a half-frozen, haggard woman, with a wan and ghastly infant in her arms, crouching in the doorway of a church. She told us she had been trying to "open the door and get in out of the cold"! It was a freezing night—and the incumbent of the church, whose salary is £800 a year, was sleeping peacefully in his warm bed. This was the thought in the poor woman's mind. She gave it bitter expression, but ended up with the simple words, "He *might* have left the door open." The woman is now in the Union Infirmary, and the child is—wherever little children go when they are dead. We sent a representative to the parson's church last Sunday morning and the congregation consisted of thirty-seven. Oh, the irony—and the mystery—of it all!

In protesting that the Salvation Army cannot afford to pay its industrial workers, who are largely inexperienced, the same rate of wages as experienced workers obtain in the open market, General Booth does not fairly face the question. He says, no doubt with truth, that it takes some of the Army men four times as long to make an article as it would men more experienced. But the point is he does not pay the worker the fair equivalent for the work when it is completed. What General Booth's argument comes to is that because it takes his men four days to make a four-shilling article which ought to be made in one day, therefore he ought only to pay them one shilling for making it; which is novel.

A few days ago an amateur burglar—meaning "one who has never previously been in trouble"—was bound over at the London Sessions "on condition that he did not enter a public-house for six months." We really must protest against the idea apparently current on this seat of judgment that burglars are made in public-houses. It is another insult to licensed victuallers.

At the time when the Government abolishes the pauper disqualification under the Old Age Pension Act we hope it will consider whether it has exhausted all the means at its disposal for preventing pensions getting into the hands of people not properly entitled to them. At the end of last year one hundred and fifty pensioners in one district of Lancashire alone—the fact is vouched for by the Preston Pensions Committee—had between them over £10,000 invested. By investing at very low interest they would keep below the limit, so that the "nest egg" hardly comes into the equity of the case at all. We mean equity, of course, inside the present law; for if the law is enforced rigidly against the poorest of the aged poor, it ought to be enforced even more rigidly against those who are capitalists in comparison.

The composition of the Dudley Licensing Committee, recently appointed, has excited a great deal of adverse criticism and bitter comment in the town. We understand that of the nine appointed six are rabid teetotalers. Even the Mayor has been excluded, though it is almost a local precedent that the occupant for the time being of this honourable civic office should act as chairman of the committee. We fear the "trade" in Dudley is in for a bad time.

In matters of political cant, we are no respecters of persons. And we must fall foul of our old friend, Billy Steadman, who, in one of his recent election speeches, said, speaking of Mr. Chamberlain, "I do honestly believe that God Almighty has afflicted him as a punishment for his wickedness in that unjust and wicked South African war." Perhaps Mr. Steadman will now tell us whether he honestly believes that Providence had anything to with in his own defeat in Finsbury?

And here is Sir Thomas Whittaker who, although returned — but by a greatly reduced majority — cannot resist the temptation of attributing his partial defeat to causes other than his own decreased popularity. "We have had to meet," he says, "a double attack—an attack of personalities and of slander—and we have driven it back into the gutter whence it came. . . . When we saw the gang that came into the town to-day we didn't need to see their colours—their faces told where they came from." Why is it that fanaticism and teetotalism invariably go together? But after all Sir Thomas doesn't count much in these days!

There has been a lot of talk of late about horse-flesh diet. We have no desire to see the British working-man reduced to the necessity of feeding upon the stringy fibre of worn-out hacks, but at the same time it must be admitted that horse-flesh in some cases is by no means so unpalatable as is generally supposed. We are reminded of an incident which once occurred at Mrs. Langtry's racing stable in the Midlands. The famous actress had bought a promising yearling, for which she paid some £1,200. Shortly afterwards the gee-gee had the misfortune to break a leg. The fracture being a hopeless one, the horse was promptly despatched; and, although a rule of the stable was that all dead horses should be buried, this particular yearling, being young, healthy and, presumably, tender, was secretly skinned and dressed by the stable butcher, and the prime parts were eagerly devoured by such of the "lads" and others who could overcome the inherent British repugnance against a horse diet. One of the boys—now a married man with a family—recently said that his share was a cut out of the rump, and that barring a certain sweetness of flavour, it was equal in his opinion to the best Scotch or Devon beef.

Early the other Sunday morning some evil-disposed person or persons broke into the dwelling place of the Mayor of High Wycombe, and therefrom lifted portables valued at £399. "The fact that the Mayor read the Riot Act at a recent election disturbance," says one of our contemporaries, "is thought to lend significance to the burglary." We all do things from somewhat mixed motives, it is true; but is it not an equally probable or improbable hypothesis that the burglar was a beastly Radical who mistook the Mayoral possessions for unearned increment?

By the way, we have received some remarkable accounts of what occurred in connection with the reading of the Riot Act, and of savage assaults upon unoffending citizens which followed it. If half of what we are told is true, there is good ground for enquiry by the Home Office. Perhaps the local M.P. will move in the matter.

In the course of a meeting at Gainsborough, held in support of Captain Henderson, a Mr. P. H. Gamble referred to our recent revelation that a Louth Nonconformist minister had stated that many peers married ballet girls because they wore short frocks and had fine legs. "Well," commented Mr. Gamble, "perhaps it's better to marry a ballet girl who wears short frocks and has nice legs than to be a Nonconformist minister with a nasty mind," a remark greeted with "loud and prolonged applause and roars of laughter." We are much obliged to the populace for their kind appreciation; but when next Mr. Gamble publicly lets off our fireworks will he please mention the name of the old and tried firm who supplied them?

"Dear Sir," begins a letter which Mr. Balfour addressed to a Lerwick "correspondent" just before the Orkney and Shetland election, "I greatly sympathise with the evil plight in which the herring fishery finds itself." Thus do the old jokes survive. We don't suppose Mr. Balfour cares a "twopenny damn" for the herring industry. But the exigencies of the leader of a political party are such that when writing to a Newcastle candidate he has to express his sympathy with the horrible state of coal; to a Lancashire candidate he has to weep over the lamentable condition of cotton; if he writes to Bradford he has to drop the bitter tear for the fearful fall of worsted; and if to Grimsby he must pour out his pity for the precarious state of existence to which the inhabitants have been reduced by the declining market in haddock. May we ask whether Mr. Balfour has considered the reasons for the widespread dissemination in this country of German saveloy?

Mr. Harry Boulter, who recently went to prison for "blasphemy," is in trouble again. This time it is for selling a certain pamphlet on Clapham Common "without the written sanction of the London County Council." The offence at worst was purely technical, but the magistrate did not approve of the contents of the pamphlet and inflicted the maximum penalty of £10 and £2 2s. costs. In the very next case which came before him a man was charged with stealing turf from the Common, and was fined 5s. and 2s. costs. Evidently it does not matter how little turf is left on the Common so long as the literature of the itinerant lecturers is kept in order.

We are glad to hear that the Suffragette contention about a differential treatment of prisoners according to their social status is unfounded. When Lady Constance Lytton masqueraded as Jane Wharton she was treated in precisely the same way as if she had been recognised as a member of the aristocracy. It was difficult to understand why anybody should imagine that a Radical Government would be anxious to show special consideration to a woman because she happened to be related to a peer.

In a recent issue we had some comments on the blundering arrest by two Marylebone policemen of an innocent woman, and expressed regret that no apology had been tendered to her. The North London police made another blunder. Four men were charged with theft in the court of Mr. Hedderwick, the new magistrate (who, we hope, will strive to merit the title of "public magistrate" instead of "police magistrate"). But here was a welcome innovation: "Mr. A. J. Ford, prosecuting, was instructed to express regret that one of the prisoners had been given into custody, the prosecution being now satisfied that a mistake had been made." All that the magistrate had to say, however, was, "Very well, he will be discharged." This is not a promising start. Could not Mr. Hedderwick have spared a few words of kindly regret at the injustice inflicted upon an innocent man?

More Police Court brutality, this time from Bristol. A man was charged before Messrs. Edward Robinson and H. W. Twiggs with begging. He told the magistrates he was able and willing to work, and was out early and late seeking work. "Fourteen days," exclaimed the chairman of magistrates; "we can't allow begging"—and the man staggered from the dock. The magistrates are Nonconformist teetotalers, and Mr. Twiggs has a call to the saving of souls by preaching and by prayer. If he will inform us when he is due for his next sermon, we shall be delighted to choose for him a suitable Scriptural text.

Examples of blackguardly blasphemy still continue to reach us. According to Mr. Prothero (and the *People*), the Unionist candidate for Bedford, a certain Mr. George Royle, a shining light in the chapel pulpits of that town, read out at a political meeting this verse, based on the rumour which had somehow got abroad that Mr. Black, the Liberal candidate, was dead:—

> It is no use, you can't deceive us,
> For Mr. Black has gone to Jesus;
> The truth of that I cannot tell,
> Mr. Prothero's gone to hell.

How a man professedly religious can give tongue to drivel of this kind in the belief that it will assist the political candidate from whose platform it is spoken passes our comprehension. There cannot be the smallest excuse for it.

Whilst giving the Lord Mayor all credit for the humane motives which prompted him to start a Fund for the sufferers by the Paris floods, we should like to feel certain that the money he remits will really find its way to the victims. Here is an extract from a letter recently received by one of our readers from a Paris friend:—

> It would be well, by all means in your power, to dissuade well-intentioned, but ill-advised people from contributing to the Mansion House and other funds for the benefit of the sufferers from the present inundations in Paris. Better they reserve their charity for their Embankment-housed brethren in London, for it will never reach those for whom it is intended. By the time the amounts given for the relief of the *sinistres* have passed through Government hands, filtered through officialdom to the various committees appointed for their distribution, there will be little left for the poor wretches it is desired to assist. It is four years since the terrible mining disaster at Carrières, but not yet has any of the money sent in aid reached the sufferers.

We are not gone on statistics, especially the official brand. But we gladly note that, compared with 1909 Exports in January this year show an increase of £6,000,000, and Imports an increase of £2,500,000, and Exports of Imports an increase of £1,500,000. We are anxious to believe that business is looking up, and that the old country is still in the way of doing a bit.

The *Saturday Review* is very angry because the University boat-race is to take place in Holy Week. It appears that the usual dinner is to be abandoned, but that does not satisfy the ecclesiastical pedants. "It is a pity," they exclaim, "the Presidents (of the Boat Clubs) have not the courage of their own decision. If the observation of Holy Week is nothing to them, let them be straight about it and dine as in any other week." Well, why not? Is it seriously suggested that anyone but a fanatic troubles about fasting nowadays? Anyhow, a boat-race, which implies a good deal of self-denial, does not at any season clash with the ordinances of the Church.

The Young Turks have had the grace to contradict the lie about the madness and attempted suicide of Abdul Hamid. But these rumours of madness and suicide are both significant and alarming. In the Near East they are usually euphemisms for murder, and we hope that this is not a case of coming events casting their shadows before.

Meanwhile, the Young Turks are assuming all the arrogance of their predecessors of the fifteenth century. They run about proclaiming their contempt for infidel dogs, and vow that they will fight rather than surrender another acre of the present Ottoman Empire. In the case of Crete, they even murmur menaces of war if Cretan deputies attend the forthcoming Greek National Assembly. At first sight, no doubt, this appears very natural, and they are entitled to remind us that we should not tolerate Irish representation, say, in the American Parliament. But the National Assembly of Greece is only summoned at long intervals to deal with questions affecting the whole Greek race. On the last occasion, about half-a-century ago, delegates came not only from Crete, but from the Greek colonies in Constantinople and elsewhere. It is, therefore, reasonable to argue that Cretan representation in such circumstances would not be an infringement of Turkish sovereignty.

The King of Greece seems to be weathering his storm with unexpected diplomacy. He has pacified the military malcontents without exasperating the politicians, though this seemed quite recently to be an impossible task. The result is that he may retain his shaky throne for a while, but the gross absurdities of Greek Parliamentary institutions are to be perpetuated. The Greeks are probably the most democratic people on earth—in theory. Parliament is supreme, but it is elected by force and bribery and fraud. Whenever a party comes into power, the whole Civil Service is reconstituted, every little prefect and postmaster being superseded. It is worse even than our own party system.

In his parish magazine, the vicar of Christ Church, West Bromwich, explains that he did not ring the bells of his church in celebration of the victory of Lord Lewisham, the Tory candidate in the election, but "to celebrate a triumph greater than any political triumph, namely, the triumph of truth over falsehood, and honourable action over dishonourable action." As the vicar is a gentleman professionally engaged in the spiritual life, we assume that this explanation is another triumph of truth over falsehood. He has only himself to blame, however, if to most people it looks like the triumph of humbug over credibility.

An American magistrate, in one of the Thirsty States, has ordered three licensed victuallers, convicted of Sunday trading, to attend church every Sunday or to forfeit their licences. The report does not say which they decided to do.

At Burnley Quarter Sessions, a labourer has been sentenced to three years' penal servitude for stealing 2½ s. of cotton waste. At the Manchester Assizes, the late secretary of an Oldham manufacturing spinning company has been charged with embezzlement, forgery, and theft, the total defalcations amounting to £20,410. "He was a young man of highly respectable origin," the counsel for the prosecution kindly explained to the Commissioner, "and was, in fact, a nephew of the company's chairman of directors." "The sentence," said the Commissioner, "will be twenty calendar months' hard labour." We have many remarks to make on the astounding difference in these two sentences—but we think we will make them inaudibly.

The Turkish Government ask for the loan of another British admiral to command their navy—what there is of it—*vice* Sir Douglas Gamble. On the whole we had better lend them one. Or perhaps Germany will.

The Peers are, very properly, forbidden to take part in Parliamentary elections. Should not the prohibition be extended to parsons? Just look at this effusion of our old friend, and opponent, the Rev. Wm. Riley, now curing souls at Walsall:—

BRIDGE ST, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
WALSALL.
P.S.A. BROTHERHOOD,
SUNDAYS, 3 TO 4 P.M.,
REV. WILLIAM RILEY
Will give an Address on
SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH, AT 3 P.M.
Subject—
"TYRANT LORDS, LIBERTY & LABOUR."

FOR SOCIAL REFORM, the Budget provided EIGHTEEN MILLIONS, and THREE MILLIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT. The Lords threw it out.

FELLOW-WORKMEN AND CITIZENS, are 375 hereditary and Tyrannical Peers to disfranchise 6,000,000 Electors; rob of its LIBERTY a NATION of 45,000,000, and make into Russian Serfs an EMPIRE of 400,000,000 people?

Tyrant Lords beat our Fathers with whips; are they to flog us with scorpions, and our children with rods of iron?

IF NOT, VOTE EARLY, WORK AND CANVASS WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT TO

RETURN MAJOR DUNNE

with a 2,000 majority, and a PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT with a 360 majority for Freedom.

We want MORE TAXATION ON FORTUNES, NOT FOODSTUFFS; on the Land-owning Peers and Millionaires, not on the Labouring and Middle Classes.

Vote, then, for LAND FOR THE UNEMPLOYED; don't Tax their Food; Vote for LLOYD GEORGE'S BUDGET; for DUNNE, Liberty and Old Age Pensions; and that the PEOPLE, and not the Peers, shall rule.

We are not surprised that the Conservative members of Mr. Riley's congregation object to the cost of printing and circulating this leaflet being charged against the church funds.

Is it the fact that one of the members of the Board charged with the defence of an important Indian harbour is the German Consul?

Another nice little job on the London County Council! It is a repetition of the proceedings which we exposed in the case of the appointment to that fat living, the Directorship of Stores. In this instance, the Council advertised for a Chief Officer of the Parks Department, the advertisement stating that applicants were to have knowledge of gardening, surveying, and forestry. Many highly competent experts applied, and yet a Major Enthoven was selected on the proposal of the General Purposes Committee, the only qualification of this gentleman being that he is a soldier. Like inviting the butcher to come and cobble your boots, isn't it?

Talking of soldiers reminds us of the proceedings in the recent trial of a British Tommy in Jersey, that isle where British tourists are run in for disputing the details of their hotel bills. The soldier's offence was that of smashing windows, and he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment by the Royal Court. As even in this great country we send people to gaol for offences less grievous, we don't make a song about the sentence. What is extraordinary is that this British soldier was indicted, prosecuted, and defended in the French language, of which he understood not a word, and that the only English used in the proceedings was that of the Bailiff in pronouncing sentence. And this, as a local paper puts it, "under the British flag, and within a hundred miles of Great Britain itself"! The more we hear about the laws of Jersey the less we like 'em.

Deputy Chief Constable Galloway has been accounting for the decrease of drunkenness in the Isle of Wight by telling the magistrates that since the introduction of the Budget people do not mix their drinks; "they do not take spirits when drinking beer and stout." Piffle!

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

A small boy was asked by his teacher during the recent Election to explain the difference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The reply was: "Members of the House of Commons get there by Election and Taxis, and the Lords get there by heirship and motors."

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE SOCIETY, WHO ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THE POST OFFICE'S RECENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TELEPHONIC DELIVERY OF IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE IN LONDON ON SUNDAYS AS BEING "SPECIALLY HARMFUL."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For announcing: "10s. *reward for small half-*PENSION *cat,*"
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE TORQUAY TIMES*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "*Board-Residence.* FLEE *list sent by return,*"
THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "SLIPPERS ONLY *to be worn on Dancing Floor,*"
THE CANTERBURY ROLLER SKATING RINK CO.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Eggs that were sold at 12 for a shilling A YEAR AGO *can now be sold at 20 to 24 for a shilling, and leave a profit to the shopkeeper,*"
THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing himself on billheads in connection with the business he carried on as having been "15 years in GOVERNMENT SERVICE,"
AN EX-CONVICT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "Fully Licensed Country House, suitable for PIGS, *leaving through wife's illness,*"
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE WESTERN MORNING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating at a Waterford meeting that "I want to ask a question or two BEFORE I SAY A WORD,"
MR. J. T. BOYCE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "Dressing Block, enabling ladies to re-dress their own wigs, transformations, and puff curls WHILST OFF THEIR HEADS,"
THE INTERNATIONAL HAIR CO., 9, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that in a game of 9,000 up, Diggle received 15,000 start, and in the course of the game "made a brilliant 11 unfinished,"
THE PEOPLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in his sale catalogue "Black taffeta silk, special price 11s. 1d., usually 2s. 3d. per yard,"
MR. JOHN ANDREW, DRAPER, BRIDLINGTON,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the speaker resumed his seat to a CAT-CALL *of 'quack, quack,'"*
THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that: "A dance took place at THE AGE OF MISS BERTHA, *second daughter of Mr.* AND OLD MUSEUM ROOMS, *to celebrate the coming of Mrs. Albert Jackson,*"
THE IPSWICH INDEPENDENT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing a picture of a group of small children, carrying a banner, as "Lloyd George's supporters marching through Carnarvon,"
THE BRISTOL OBSERVER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a testimonial: "I have never used any other matches than 'England's Glory,' as I have always found them to burn BETTER AND LONGER THAN ANY OTHER MATCHES."
WILLIAM JINKS, 5, ADDISON ST., WEDNESBURY,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE "ABODE OF LOVE."

THE NEW POSITION CREATED BY THE DEATH OF MR. CHARLES STOKES READ.

(By Our Special Commissioner.)

Charles Read was a very tall man, with thick grey hair, a Roman nose, big grey eyes, and an easy, confident manner. He used to dress in dark cloth of a somewhat clerical cut, but from head to foot he was essentially a business man. That was Read's characteristic, his position—the business man of the "Abode of Love." That is the strongest impression that I have of the man as I remember him sitting over the fire in his cosy study at the Agapemone.

Is the "Abode" Legally Secure?

It was of the theory, the belief, the purposes of the Abode as professed by the members themselves that we talked on that occasion. Of course, the whole place is at the bottom a mere brothel, but it has unfortunately turned to good account the religious liberty which we in England enjoy, and has, over the criminal proceedings which go on inside its four walls, plastered a veneer of righteousness which has so far preserved it from destruction. In equity it stands condemned, but in law its position may still be a safe one. That is why the theory of defence its leaders would formulate in court interested me, and why I wished to know on what grounds they would fight in the day of reckoning—if, indeed, they do not take to their heels instead.

Read's Character.

Let me preface my remarks by saying again what has always been obvious. Read and Smyth-Pigott always understood one another. There was no spiritual influence at the back of their relations with one another, however much may have been assumed for the benefit of the gullible. They were a couple of business men—one the performer, the other business manager. Read was no man to be mesmerised, as the "Messiah" undoubtedly mesmerises the women kind.

False Claims.

Secondly, Read was lying in much of what he told me. I will give two of his statements as a sample of the rest.

(1) That no promiscuous relationship took place.

(2) That the place was not financially well off.

The first of these statements has been somewhat discredited by the degradation of Sister Ruth and elevation of a new mistress in her place. This change of front has palpably disproved every claim to spiritual guidance in his love-making which the "Messiah" ever made before. As to the financial conditions, I remember Read's phrase well: "It is only by 'clubbing together'" (mark the euphemism!) "that we get along at all comfortably." The whole place, as I saw it, or at least the quarters of the boss-malefactors, are a contradiction of the plea. The place reeks of filthy lucre.

Mrs. Pigott's Position.

One of the most important if saddest points into which I inquired was the status of the legitimate Mrs. Pigott. Read's answers showed, as nothing else could have done, the arrant hypocrisy of the man. I will give our conversation verbatim.

I mentioned what her feelings must be.

"Ah, no. There you are quite mistaken," he replied. "The lady whom you designate Mrs. Pigott GLORIES in her position. She is PROUD to give up to God what only God Himself has given her. It is only when God calls the Messiah to his spiritual duties that she has for the appointed period to resign her claims."

"And that is pretty often, is it not?"

"Yes, as I said before. But Mrs. Smyth-Pigott acquiesces humbly in God's will. It is her duty to obey, and she does so without complaint!"

"Sister Ruth is, or was, a handsome woman?"

"Surely you do not suggest that motive where a man of such high moral character is concerned?"

"I suggest nothing. I am only seeking information. But, another point, Mr. Read. Pray tell me, is Mrs. Pigott free to seek companionship elsewhere, when her husband makes these periodical desertions?"

"There is no promiscuous immorality here," he replied. "Husbands and wives are faithful, bachelors and maidens are pure."

Mr. Read having lately lost his wife, I hesitated to reply, and endeavoured to change the subject. He saw, however, I was unconvinced, and ejaculated:

"Can you point, then, to any children other than 'Power' and 'Glory,' who have been born here?"

"No, but in any case that is merely begging the point. The fact that there may have been no births is not a proof that there has been no immorality."

Read made no reply, but taking a Bible from the bookshelf, read from the Book of Revelation relative to the second coming of the Messiah!

Waiting for a "Call"!

After that I tackled him on the criminal slackness and sloth of their methods if Pigott was really Christ come again. This drew from him a remarkable statement. He told me that at any moment he and Pigott and all the faithful may sally forth from the Agapemone and inaugurate a crusade of their own in the world, beginning with the West of England. But this would only be at "a call from above." Frankly, I told him that I didn't think the call "would ever come." I almost added, "So long as things prosper as they are." He assured me that it all depended on God's wishes as manifested to His chosen servant!

Our conversation lasted a great time, and we covered every phase of the subject my imagination or curiosity could suggest. But the result was always the same. He lied as long as he could. When cornered he fell back upon the old phrase about God's will being manifested to Pigott.

A Strong Personality.

I parted with Charles Stokes Read with a very strong, decided impression on my mind. He was a thoroughly clever, accomplished, unscrupulous, and determined man, whose whole fortune lay with the success of the Agapemone. So far as his selfish interests were concerned, he was a fighter. I am sure that in case of trouble he would have stood by the Agapemone to the last. I believe his has always been the decisive voice in the management and maintenance of the place.

It is not seemly to exult over the death of a man—however wicked. Death is a visitor that comes to us all some time. But one cannot repress an instinctive feeling of relief that the main pillar of the institution has fallen, that the end is at hand.

The New Home Secretary's Opportunity.

I have wondered sometimes why the authorities have been so chary of taking proceedings against the "Abode of Love." Is it because they have anticipated a stubborn contest in the Courts, and feared lest the dragging up of some mud into the common gaze would be more harmful than to let things remain in their present condition? If so, they are wrong.

Now, however it may have been in the past, it is no longer so. Pigott is no fighter, but a coward. The right hand of the monster has been cut off. If criminal proceedings were instituted now there would be no contest. The "Messiah" will flee at the first assault. What says the new Home Secretary?

MR. BOTTOMLEY'S PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY.

As will be seen from the following list of interesting questions which he has placed upon the Notice Paper, Mr. Bottomley is losing no time in the fulfilment of his Parliamentary duties :—

UNCLAIMED BANK BALANCES IN COLONIES.

To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state in which of the British Colonies or Dominions, periodical Returns are required by law of all dormant balances and unclaimed securities in the hands of bankers, and whether he will grant a Return showing the value of unclaimed moneys and securities thus disclosed.

DISFRANCHISED MALE ADULTS.

To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he can state (1) the approximate adult male population of the United Kingdom on 1st January of the present year; (2) the number of persons upon the Parliamentary Registers of the United Kingdom at that date; and (3) the number who recorded their votes at the General Election.

LAW OFFICERS' FEES.

To ask the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, whether he can state the total sums paid up to the present, during the current financial year, to the two Law Officers of the Crown, respectively.

BUSINESS MEN FOR BUSINESS BOARDS.

To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he will consider the desirableness of introducing legislation to amend the constitution of the Board by substituting for his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury a person of commercial and business experience.

IRISH SPEAKER AND BOARD OF TRADE.

To ask the President of the Board of Trade, what steps, if any, he proposes to take to fill up the vacancy in the constitution of the Board created by the fact that for some time past one of its members, namely, the Speaker of the Irish Parliament, has not been available.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS.

To ask the Prime Minister, whether, in view of the recent decision in Osborne *v.* the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and others, he will consider the desirablencss of introducing legislation at an early date providing for the payment of Members of Parliament.

CHECKING OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

To ask the Prime Minister, whether, before setting up the Public Accounts Committee, he will consider the desirableness of enlarging the scope of its powers, in order that its members may have authority to visit from time to time the various departments of the Public Service and obtain information as to the practicability of reducing the present cost of their administration.

CANADIAN TARIFF ON CATALOGUES.

To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that the Canadian Government imposes a tariff upon trade catalogues coming within the Dominion, and whether he will make representations with a view to the removal of this obstacle to British commerce.

WAR OFFICE BRIBERY.

To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been called to the recent allegations in the Press of a system of bribery existing between certain contractors and officials at the War Office, and whether he proposes to make any enquiry into the matter.

UNBUSINESSLIKE METHODS OF LOCAL BODIES.

To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Parks Committee of the Cardiff Corporation has been in the habit of selling its hay to a local corn merchant at £3 2s. 6d. per ton, whilst the Health Committee of the same Corporation has been purchasing its hay from the same corn merchant at £4 2s. 6d. per ton, and whether he will instruct the district auditor of the Board to make a careful enquiry into the matter.

GERMAN CONSUL ON BRITISH PORT AUTHORITY.

To ask the Under-Secretary of State for India, whether it is a fact that one of the members of the Board charged with the defence of the Harbour at Karachee is the German Consul.

MAGISTERIAL CONDEMNATION OF CHILDREN ACT.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Depart ent, whether his attention has been called to a recent statement by Mr. Rose, one of the Metropolitan Magistrates, condemning the working of the Public-house Clause of the Children Act, and whether he can state the result of the enquiry promised by his predecessor into the working of this clause.

AN HONORARY CHAPLAIN.

To ask the Prime Minister, whether, in view of the fact that the membership of the House now includes seven ordained Ministers of Religion, he will consider the desirableness of inviting one or other of those honourable and reverend gentlemen to officiate at prayers, and thus save the salary of the present Chaplain.

COST OF LABOUR EXCHANGES.

To ask the First Commissioner of Works, how much of the £70,000, voted as a Supplementary Estimate for the accommodation of the Labour Exchanges, has so far been expended, and whether it is proposed to suspend expenditure upon permanent buildings pending an opportunity for ascertaining the utility of such Exchanges.

FOREIGNERS AS BRITISH CONSULS.

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether it is the fact that a foreigner has recently been appointed British Consul at Geneva, and if so, whether there were not at least two English residents well-known to the British population who were capable and willing to fill the appointment.

OVERCROWDING ON THE "TUBES."

To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he is aware of the serious overcrowding which occurs in the lifts and carriages of the Tube railways of the Metropolis, and whether he will make representations to the companies in regard to the matter.

WITHHOLDING NAMES FROM JURIES.

To ask the Attorney-General, whether his attention has been called to the fact that during the proceedings in the recent trial of Rex *v.* Crosland, a witness was allowed to write a certain name upon a piece of paper, and that such name was then handed to the judge, but was withheld from the jury, and whether he will consider the advisableness of introducing legislation making it obligatory that the jury shall be acquainted with the contents of all documents used in the course of a trial.

"A 'BUSINESS' POST OFFICE."

Referring to our recent article under this heading, we have received numerous communications, from which we give the following extracts :—

A commercial traveller (Smethwick) writes that he received an order, his commission on which would amount to 18s. This he immediately telegraphed to the firm he represents. Not a word being heard of the goods, he says he called at the Corporation Post Office and asked for a copy of his message, but was informed he must apply in London. He, therefore, obtained a complaint form and wrote the Postmaster-General. In reply, he received on January 14th a printed acknowledgment of the receipt of his letter, but has heard nothing further. He asks whether he has any claim on the Post Office. We are afraid he has not, as it is stated in the "Postal Guide" that "The Postmaster-General is not liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a telegram." This certainly seems somewhat harsh.

"*Pro Bono Publico*" regrets we have omitted to refer to the staffing of the branch offices in large towns like Manchester with young girls. He says that in the office he uses there are two girls, one 16 and the other 20, and a man got penal servitude the other day for robbing the place, after terrifying the elder with a revolver, while a year ago the safe was bodily carried away.

A Surrey reader says that, while no private firm would put a carpenter to do foreman bricklayer's work, similar instances occur in the Engineers' Department of the Post Office. He knew of a man who was sent down on probation and could not do the duties; he was examined and did not pass, yet he was appointed and was sent back to the district whence he came—his sister married an engineer, our informant is told. Another local man married an engineer's daughter—he also is appointed. On the other hand, he says a man who served in the Royal Engineers and is a skilled telegraphist and linesman cannot get a job.

THE MYSTERY OF THE "WARATAH."

Some Notes By a Naval Architect.

There can be no doubt that of maritime disasters this loss of the *Waratah* is the most serious. A vessel of such dimensions and importance has never before been posted at Lloyd's as "missing." That a new twin screw liner, designed specially for passenger traffic, and the particular requirements of her trade, and constructed to meet weather conditions of a well-known track should so disappear, demands the closest and most searching technical investigation possible. Facts as to her dimensions not having hitherto appeared may be of interest.

Length, 465 feet; breadth, 59 feet 3 inches; depth, 39 feet 4 inches; with a poop bridge and forecastle erections. Twin screw and capable of 13½ knots speed. She was designed to carry 430 passengers with considerable amount of cargo. Over the bridge deck were the promenade and boat decks and officers' bridge. The accommodation was distributed over these decks, with some of the third class on the upper deck aft. She was insulated throughout for the meat trade, necessitating some heavy refrigerating machinery being carried on the upper deck.

Until the enquiry comes, conjectures as to the cause of her loss are not of much avail, but with data, which could only then be obtainable, a thorough investigation into her steaming condition after leaving Durban would in all probability throw such light as would elucidate the mystery. In the meantime the opinion of passengers as to her behaviour, and the strong comments through the press as to "top-heaviness" should be accepted with reserve.

In itself, "top-heaviness" does not necessarily imply instability. To the man in the street it spells disaster, but he should clear his mind from such illusion. Technically it is termed "tenderness," and such vessels are the most kindly to passengers from point of view of comfort, while the "stiff," or exactly opposite to "top-heavy" vessel, means *mal-de-mer!* The "tender" vessel will roll through a small angle, while the "stiff" is rolling heavily through a large one, and, it should be noted, the time taken for the roll will be the same in both cases!

The builder, however, is not altogether responsible for the stability of a vessel. It may be said that generally the loading is the predominant factor, and the captain must be held responsible for this. At the same time, if the vessel is "built up" and has much topweight, the effect of this can be counteracted by the addition of beam to her. It is reported that it was recommended by builders in the initial stages of the *Waratah's* design that 2 feet be added to the breadth on this account. Be that as it may, it is a fact that the scientific side of shipbuilding is not paid sufficient attention to in this country. Particularly does this refer to stability. It can, and should be remedied. While the question of the stability of the *Waratah's* design should be exhaustively investigated by the Board of Trade, the loading being a prime factor in the case, particular attention must be paid to this. At the time of her loss she was running in what is termed the "off season," and would not be full up. Examination of her cargo reveals the fact that she was carrying, in addition to some 2,000 tons of bunker coal, about 6,128 tons of cargo, amongst the latter being:—1,000 tons of ore; 302 tons of bar lead; 1,208 tons of wheat; 1,156 tons of flour and oats; 600 tons of tallow and glycerine; 350 tons of wool.

The distribution of her cargo would be of great importance to the stability and behaviour of the *Waratah*. The "sluggish" behaviour in rising to a sea as described by passengers may easily be accounted for by this, and certainly the manner to a great extent of her rolling. It is for the enquiry to discover what information as to the stability of the *Waratah* was given Captain Ilbery, and what use he made of it in controlling her loading as far as he was able, especially as he is said to have been extremely anxious as to her safety! As a general rule the stability information as supplied to captains is deplorable.

From such vessels as the *Clan Macintyre*, which passed the *Waratah* within, it would seem, a few hours of her loss, the weather and seas are known to have been violent with "squalls of hurricane force." With nothing more abnormal than this, she should certainly have come through successfully. But she is lost, and it is essential that the enquiry be most searching and technical.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY AND ITS STAFF.

A SCANDALOUS AND DESPOTIC INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR LIBERTY.

Our attention has been called to the following resolution passed by the Court of Directors at their meeting on December 22nd last:—

> It was resolved that in future it shall be a regulation of the company that no member of the office staff shall be permitted to retain his appointment if he shall marry before his minimum income from salary or other sources reaches £150 per annum.
>
> In the case of a member of the office staff whose salary from the company is under £150 per annum, but whose total income or that of his wife and himself jointly amounts to £150, it will be necessary to afford proof of such total income to the satisfaction of the secretary or assistant secretary.

Out of the very large staff employed by the company, barely 10 per cent. have reached the meagre total which, on the admission of the board, is required to keep body and soul together. And even these meagre stipends are to be further reduced by contributions to a pension fund, the capital of which may be invested in the company's stock. It is true that contributions are supposed to be voluntary, but (in the words of the chairman) "pressure is to be applied." We have no hesitation in characterising the board's resolution, forbidding 90 per cent. of the staff to marry, as abuse of power.

FARROW'S FAROMETER.

AN INGENIOUS DEVICE FOR REGULATING THE SPEED OF MOTOR CARS.

Mr. Thomas Farrow, the Founder and Chairman of the popular and successful People's Bank bearing his name, has worked out an idea which, in our opinion, is calculated to create a similar "revolution" in the motor world as people's banking is destined to bring about in old-fashioned banking circles.

He has invented and perfected a machine to be known as the "Farometer," and not only is he confident that the instrument will prove of immense value to municipal bodies, the administrators of the Law and the public at large, but he is firmly of opinion that its use will ere long be made compulsory.

The "Farometer," which is the result of long and costly experiment, is placed on the front of a motor car indicating in bold letters and figures the precise speed at which the car is travelling. For example:—

Miles
15
Per Hour.

Immediately the speed limit of 20 miles has been exceeded, a gong is sounded and continues its noise until the speed has been reduced to the legal limit. If by chance the motorist insists on travelling up to a speed of 25 miles per hour, the number 25 is registered in red or "danger" figures.

The device is illuminated at night by means of an electric lamp, while in addition to the speed being made known to the public, the instrument shows similar figures on the reverse side for the information and benefit of the chauffeur and the occupants of the car.

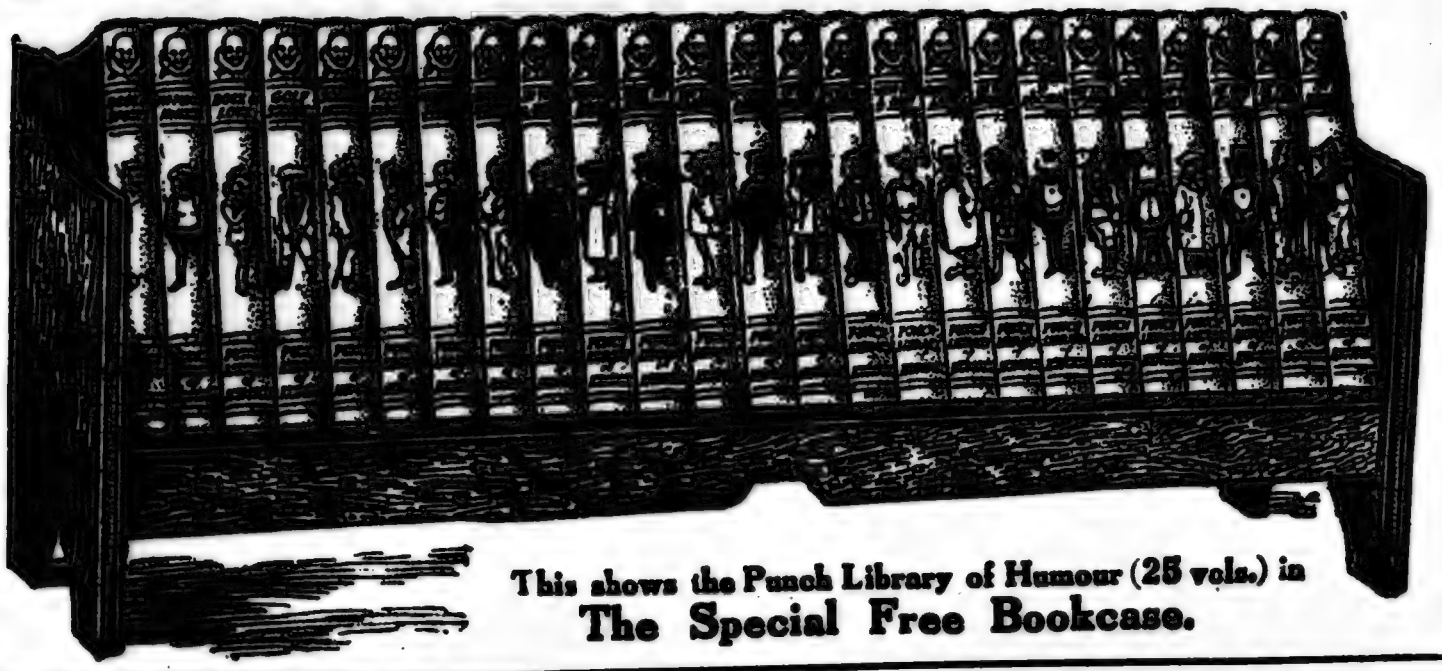
It is conceivable that reckless motorists, properly known as "road-hogs," will oppose the innovation, and that manufacturers who are constructing racing or other cars of extraordinary horse-power will protest against the adoption of the "Farometer," but it is certain that the non-users of motors, who may be described as "the People," and all those who are responsible for the public safety, will warmly welcome the invention.

So far as the police are concerned, they will be relieved from the present necessity of "traps," inasmuch as the motorist will be condemned by the openly registered speed.

We may add that the instrument has already been successfully installed upon Mr. Farrow's own private cars, that it has proved itself to be absolutely reliable either on level or uneven road surface, and that it has not only created great interest in all circles, but has been enthusiastically acclaimed by responsible and representative organisations and individuals.

For the Last Time at the Low Price.

Owing to a warehouse error in stocktaking we find that we have for sale at the old price a few more sets of The Punch Library of Humour than we had reason to suppose. Those who secure one of these sets will have the satisfaction of saving £1. But to secure one it is necessary to act at once. This offer cannot possibly be repeated in these columns.



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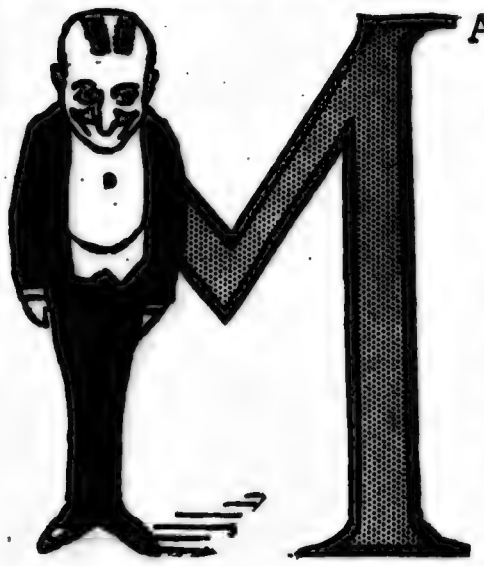

MAY I, after you have read the important statement above, introduce myself—as an old friend of your father and your grandfather? I made them laugh, and no doubt many a time put them in better humour with you. You owe me something for that. May I also remind you, with that modesty which is so characteristic of me, that I am more powerful than Princes in that I banish dulness, and of more avail as a health-giver than physic or physicians? You can retain my constant services in the double capacity of Jester and Family Doctor at so trifling a price that, 'pon my word, I hardly like to mention it.

2/6

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It would be a thousand pities if you let slip the chance of adding this delightful work to your library. Only 11 further monthly payments of 5/- are required to complete the purchase. All that is best in sixty years of "Punch" is contained in the 25 volumes. It represents the very cream of Mr. Punch's efforts with pen and pencil. The sketches of Phil May are there, of Du Maurier, of Charles Keene, and of many another whose name is a household word; while the quips and jest of Burnand, Anstey, and Seaman will enliven many a tedious hour.

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JOURNALISTIC PARTY PREJUDICE.

TWO VIEWS OF THE SAME THING.

Here are two extracts, side by side, showing how the party virus has infected the press, and how it tends to mislead the public. The paragraphs relate to the result of a day's pollings during the election :—

Morning Leader.

On Saturday's declarations two more county seats which have been consistently Tory except in 1906 were recaptured by that party—Ramsey and Droitwich. In the industrial parts of the kingdom, however, there was again a great rally against the Peers. At Jarrow Mr. Godfrey Palmer won back to Liberalism the seat held by the Labour member, Mr. Pete Curran, since the by-election in 1907, when there was a Nationalist in the field. Both the Liberal and Labour candidate now increased their by-election poll, and the Conservative fell from second place to third. In West Fifeshire there were only 1,900 Tory votes out of 17,000 cast; in Dumbartonshire the Liberal majority was doubled, in the Osgoldcross division of Yorkshire it was increased 500 over the 4,000 maximum of 1906; in the Stamford division the Unionist majority was reduced, and at Dublin County, South (Mr. Long's old seat), it almost disappeared.

Telegraph.

Saturday's results were satisfactory. In the Lewes division Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, although ill-health prevented him taking a very active part in the campaign, increased his majority from 1,714 to 4,596, and by his retention of the seat enabled Sussex to join hands with Kent and Surrey in clearing out all the Radical candidates who sought to represent constituencies in those counties. The Ramsay division of Huntingdonshire gave Mr. O. Locker - Lampson and the Unionist party an excellent win, and in Droitwich the Hon. J. C. Lyttelton succeeded in gaining the seat after a very close contest.

Mr. C. C. Craig retained his hold on South Antrim by a majority more than three times larger than that of any previous election in the constituency. Great satisfaction will be felt that Captain Bryan Cooper has been able to keep South County Dublin, for the party. Major Morrison-Bell secured Honiton by a very handsome majority.

A POLITICAL PUDDING.

(With apologies to Mrs. Bull.)

To one pound of invective add three-quarters of a pound of coarse adjectives and half a grain of common sense.

Stir well and mix with watery argument until about the consistency of piffle.

(*Fresh adjectives are preferable, but last year's may be used, if not too stale and dry.*)

The argument should be extremely thin, the pointless kind should be obtained, if possible, and the pith should be carefully strained away.

Add three table spoonfuls of balderdash and a pint and a half of irrelevant twaddle. Beat into a froth and stir over a quick fire of abuse.

Sprinkle lightly with crumbs of canting humbug and serve with franchise sauce, to which a little party spirit may be added to suit taste.

MORE LINES TO A LADY CANVASSER.

After Praed.

Lady, we spoke of this last week,
I told you "no!" before.
Of what avails it then to speak
For I will vote no more?
'Tis worse than useless. When the Shah
Is ruler of the main,
Or when Bolivian scrip's at par,
Perchance I'll vote again.

When George the Nation's slate has cleaned.
And fêted is and courted;
When all the Dukes are guillotined
And Marquises deported;
When every home the sight affords,
Of glad, teetotal peasants;
When there is little shrift for Lords
And none at all for pheasants;
When Lansdowne, Crewe and Sanger (G.)
Are numbered with the slain;
Then, lady fair, it well may be
That I shall vote again!

When there are no Invasion fears
In this unhappy land;
When we, bereft of all our Peers,
A peerless nation stand.
When there are decent coals in Kent,
No Anarchists in Spain,
And Business Men in Parliament,
Perchance I'll vote again.

When Nelson's laurels withered are;
When British blood's but milk;
When Haldane takes the field in war,
And Kitchener "takes silk!";
Or when McKenna puts to sea
The "Doctor!" in his train
('Midst howls of laughter from the Spree),
Perchance I'll vote again.

When Hardie captures Mr. Bell,
And holds him safe and sure;
When Balfour, peering down a well,
For Truth, discovers Ure;
When Sylvia's wed and Christabel
Has hooked a stern-willed swain,
And Carrie Nation's gone to Bath,
Perchance I'll vote again!

H. H. C.

Dear Sir,
"Before the election I was rather puffed up but now—
I find I am nobody at all."
Yours Truly,
One of the "Chucked."

What do You Know about Business?

An article of far-reaching importance to all who are engaged in business. Useful alike to the Clerk, the Salesman, the Traveller, the Manager, or the Proprietor of any Business large or small.

To the thoughtless, the easy-going, or the very young man this question may at first glance seem an insult.

Such a one would answer in an off-handed sort of way: "Why I am *in* Business—I am a Business man. I know all about Business—or I ought to do so."

Aye, there's the rub! He *ought to do*. But does he?

Let me put the same question to you, taking it for granted that you are a thoroughly intelligent man, anxious to make headway in the world; one who, if the only right and possible, and at the same time easy way to do this is pointed out to him, will take it. Any intelligent man would do that, surely!

How much do *you* know about Business? Unless you are a rare and brilliant exception—you will probably own after a mortifying self-examination, that it is precious little indeed of sound Business knowledge that you really know—confidently and surely enough to bank on.

Yet without this Business knowledge your chances of doing well for yourself in the business world are very poor ones indeed. With it, there is

No Position You Cannot Aspire To.

It is only necessary to look around, to read the daily papers, to listen to the gossip of the day, to realise that in no department of life, into which intelligent men put sound knowledge and ability and "sticking in" qualities are the rewards so sure, so soon realised, and so lasting as in the great and increasingly-important world of Business.

Now what do *you* know about Business?

For instance, do you understand Bookkeeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance sheet? Do you understand exactly how the financial position of a tradesman or a firm is determined from his books? Do you understand a profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know the law as it specially affects your own particular trade, business or calling? Do you understand the manufacturing of the goods you are concerned with, or that the firm that employs you is concerned with? Do you know anything at all about manufacturing? Do you know how to figure depreciations? How to check leakage? Do you understand time-keeping systems?

You do not? Not thoroughly and authoritatively? Yet

These Things are Parts of Business Knowledge.

Do you know much about the Income Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Do you understand clearly what a Bankruptcy definition is? Or what the goodwill of a business really means? Do you know about cheques and banking and bills of all sorts? Do you understand the difference between Insurance and Assurance?

Do you know anything at all about International Trade conditions and regulations?

Do you know how to start a Business? How to secure its credit, and to buy its equipment? How to organise its departments, build up its reputation, collect its debts, rake in its profits?

Do you know anything about big selling schemes? How to create a demand for any special article? How to meet competition? Do you understand the mail order business? Or how to hire and to coach and to deal with salesmen?

Do you know anything about advertising? Would you know how to engineer separately a national advertising appeal and a local appeal?

Yet these matters are Business Knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

Now what are you to do?

You must get the Business Encyclopædia. You can have the complete set of this wonderful work delivered carriage paid for a first payment of 1s. 6d., paying for it by small monthly payments,

The Business Encyclopædia is equally necessary to you whether you are a clerk or cashier, a shopkeeper or tradesman, a commercial traveller or agent, a merchant or manufacturer, a stockbroker or financier, a workman or a capitalist.

You cannot do without it whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life; or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the Business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. If you are young the use of the Business Encyclopædia makes you proficient in

The Knowledge that is Your Stock in Trade.

If you are older, its use gives you the confidence founded on sound authoritative information, that wil enable you to act on your own business ideas. A new idea in business is often the harbinger of fortune, and the use of the Business Encyclopædia stimulates business ideas.

The Business Encyclopædia deals with nothing but business, but it treats of this important subject fully and completely and authoritatively. There are over 12,000 references in the Index; no point of difficulty has been omitted, and every question can be turned up without an instant's loss of time.

TWO OPINIONS.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR writes:

"I must congratulate you upon the production of such an excellent work. The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure they will be found to be a necessity in every commercial house. Now that we see the 'Encyclopædia,' the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

MR. L. G. HORSLEY, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, IPSWICH:

"I find your Business Encyclopædia of the greatest possible assistance to me in my work as head cashier to one of the largest manufacturing companies in East Anglia. I sometimes wonder how I should manage without it, and am only sorry there were not such valuable sources of information some years ago. It would have saved me hours of work."

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WANTED, THE CAVE-MAN.

(A vigorous rejoinder to our recent article on the Cave-woman.)

By M. M.

With reference to the article, "Wanted, the Cave-woman," which appeared in a recent issue, may not the question be raised as to what has become of the Cave-man? He, too, is extinct, the man who, if somewhat drastic in his wooing, and his methods of dealing with a "weaker vessel," had at least the qualifications to fit him for her protector. In the evolution of the ages, what has he become? A sturdy oak may stand for centuries, to be uprooted at last in a storm, and in its place may sprout a plant that has neither strength nor hardiness. Are women altogether to blame if they are ceasing to regard man as their master? For by "master" we understand one who is eminently worthy to be looked up to; someone true and just, sound, and sane of judgment, whose character has the strength of tempered steel. A man who possesses these attributes of manhood will always demand and receive the respect of woman; always remain her superior. But are the great majority of men manly? Their literature is confined to the *Pink Un* and the *Winning Post*; they follow no intellectual pursuit, have not even a hobby. Their ideals are of the lowest; their interests confined to the racecourse, billiards, cards, or music-halls. Their main idea is to have what they call "a good time"; in other words, to waste it in pleasures idle and worthless, perhaps even vicious. They have no definite goal before them; they have no ambition; so they become useless as driftwood. In their own estimation they are beings of great importance, vastly superior to "mere woman"; when they condescend to speak of her it is with cheap cynicism, or a would-be Don Juanism that would be amusing if it were not contemptible. The shallow materialism of their nature is capable of no truth or affection; home and the ties of home do not appeal to this up-to-date "man" of the twentieth century.

Is this the modern development of the Cave-man? There are exceptions; there are men still who are honourable and just, and upright, chivalrously protecting what is weaker than they. These are fitted to be guiders and rulers, to take in their hands the destiny of frail womankind. And admitting this, I think some of *us* venture to hope that we may not be condemned in a whole "lump sum." We are not all Suffragettes, screaming for equality with men; we do not wish to be self-assertive, or strive to be on a level with them. What we want to realise is that men are worthy to be our masters. We would rather not run in the race with them for place and power; rather not face the heat and glare of the day, or be in the stress of the conflict, but have them fight for us and win the laurels. Or, going to the opposite extreme, we are not all silly and vain, shallow of heart and soul, existing for dress, bridge, and frivolity. We would prefer the smallest grain of human love and true happiness to all the husks of empty pleasures. True, there are thousands of us who have to earn our own living; but I think it would be found that in a vast number of cases, necessity, and not choice, has sent the bark of our existence out on the turbulent sea of business and commercial life. Some of us would prefer to remain in the backwaters, in the shelter and peace of home. But we have been cut loose from our moorings; we have drifted out on grey waters, sundered from the life of hopes and certainties. Men, it is said, have ceased to be our fenders and protectors. Who is to blame is a question too complex, too deeply involved, to be easily answered. And the remedy—who shall say? Perhaps man will answer: "Oh, woman, be as your Creator meant you to be—womanly, sincere, gentle and compassionate." And woman: "Oh, man, be strong, be sincere, be just, prove yourself worthy of your lordship, and we will honour you and give you our deepest loyalty; we will take the lowlier place and acknowledge you 'Master.'"

THE ABERLOUR ORPHANAGE.

We understand that the Committee of Management met a few days ago, but arrived at no conclusion as to the position of Canon Jupp, the Bishop and his supporters insisting upon the Canon's resignation, and the other side, headed probably by Mr. M'Corquodale, urging that he should be allowed to remain. There is a disinclination to compel the retirement of the founder.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

SUGGESTED FORMATION OF A CHARTERED COMPANY.

Apropos the impending nationalisation of the English telephone system a Leeds correspondent says:—

> Permanent officials of the Post Office are interested in advising Ministers to commandeer a service which would add twenty thousand servants to their particular bureaucracy with equivalent elbow-room for themselves.
>
> Twenty-five years of commercial enterprise and economy has made the telephone service a profitable undertaking, but are members of Parliament other than avowed Socialists) going to allow this plot of permanent officials to fasten itself on the commercial interests of the country, thereby adding another expensive and *insouciant* domination to those we already labour under?
>
> Even presuming a Government department could work as efficiently as a commercial company, business men stand to lose control of their machinery for quick communication, which they have built up for themselves. Experience, however, proves the English Post Office incapable of supplying an efficient service even of trunk telephone lines.
>
> Would not the better alternative be to charter a new telephone company, capital, say, twenty millions at a maximum of 3½ per cent., to take over the purchase already agreed upon between the National Telephone Company and the State, as also the Trunk Service which is now mis-managed by the Post Office?
>
> By this plan commerce secures entire local control of its business machinery, superior to the proposal for separate municipal companies, and could appoint Board of Trade adjudication between the Telephone Company and its subscribers. All profits, after paying interest on capital, should be applied to improvement and cheapening of the telephone service.
>
> Maintain uniform rates throughout the country. Do away with all the objections to monopoly. Secure commerce from further secret taxation over and above the present exaction of 10 per cent. on gross receipts for Government monopoly.

At any rate, in the absence of a Business Government there is much force in our correspondent's suggestion.

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXXVII.

The following seems to us a case worthy of help—

> I have for thirty years been employed at Messrs. S——'s, of Tottenham Court Road, at an average wage of 7s. per week, and about six months back I had to leave because of ill-health, and I went into the Islington Infirmary, Highgate, stayed there three months, but was discharged from there as nothing further could be done for me. My complaint is chronic rheumatism; hands and arms are practically crippled. Dr. Lathom, of Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, says it is impossible for me to work again. I applied to Messrs. S——'s to see if they could grant me a small pension after thirty years' service, but all they would do for me was to start a subscription list with £2, but would not allow it to be taken through their premises, so that all the help they could give me was the £2 mentioned. I applied to the local board for help, but as I am only 47 years old, I am not old enough to be allowed money. I have two brothers living who can only afford to give me 6d. per week each, having families of their own, so that my only help and support is a younger sister who is employed at a London Wall restaurant, as cashier; wages 7s. weekly. Her health will not allow her to take a better position; her travelling costs 1s. per week; our rent is 3s. weekly, leaving, as you will see, 4s. per week for two people to live upon, including a small quantity of grocery allowed by the parish. The truth of this we should be very pleased to prove, and should be very grateful for any help.

We have received two further sums for the old soldier who appealed for help to recover his pawned medals, which have been forwarded as requested:—2s., from "Patriots"; 2s. 6d. from "One who went through the war, too."

We have received, on behalf of Human Document No. 75, the following monies:—1s., "Lise Uchler"; 2s., "One who would liked to have sent more"; 10s., A. L. R. M.; 10s., J. D.; 1s., "Implacable"; 2s., Joyce.

THE CIGARETTE WITH MOST TOBACCO & LEAST PAPER

Try a Packet of "Black Cat" To-day and See How Clearly and Coolly It Smokes.

AN improved Virginian Cigarette is just now winning big increases in its sales throughout Great Britain. It possesses the unique distinction of having the most tobacco and the least paper for its weight of all cigarettes. Further, it has no dust and no "tobacco sweepings." The tobacco used is of the famous 1904 crop—that crop the wonderful smoking quality of which brought Virginian tobacco to its highest popularity.

THE smoking of this improved Virginian Cigarette—whether it be the "Mild" or the "Medium"—will serve to show any smoker the great difference there really is between the wonderfully popular "**Black Cat**" cigarettes and any other cigarettes at the same price—namely, 10 "Medium" strength for 2½d., or 10 "Mild" (and large size) for 3d.

There are smokers—smokers of a nice discrimination—too, who say that it is impossible to buy a good cigarette at 10 "Medium" for 2½d., or same number "Mild" for 3d. Well, they have never tried the "**Black Cat**" brand, whatever else they may have tried.

Get any other 6d. (or even a 1/- for 10) Virginian cigarette. Get, at the same time, a trial box of 10 "**Black Cat**" "Mild" or "Medium."

Light up one of the "**Black Cat**" Cigarettes, and also one of the 6d. or 1/- kind.

First, smoke the "**Black Cat**" for just half a minute, then try the other.

You will thus be in a position to give your vote for "**Black Cat.**" You will then know that you need not pay more than "**Black Cat**" prices for a good "Medium" or "Mild" cigarette.

The test is one well worth making. It is a matter of both your purse and your pleasure. Your purse will gain, and your pleasure will be increased.

But, get a trial box of "**Black Cat**" to-day, 10 "Medium" for 2½d.; 10 "Mild" (larger size and longer smoking) for 3d.

If you like a cigarette that is both "Mild" and of a larger size than usual, try the box of "Mild" for 3d. If you are in doubt which you may prefer, get a box each of 10 "Medium" and ten "Mild" (and "Large"). The two boxes together will cost you only 5½d. for 20 cigarettes—**10 each of two kinds and sizes.**

The double test will be doubly interesting and pleasurable to you.

Black Cat

MEDIUM
10 for 2½d.
20 " 5d.

Virginia Cigarettes
1904 Crop

MILD and LARGE
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You can get "Black Cat" Cigarettes at all up-to-date tobacconists, or if any difficulty, direct from Carreras, Ltd., 7 Wardour Street, London, W. (Established 1788.)

"Whatever Carreras say—It's Right."

Once fitted with Lotus, always fitted.

1440

Black or Tan 22/6

LOTUS uppers are cut from the most expensive skins—plump fine, beautiful leather; and the soles are tanned with English oak bark in the old way.

Every pair of Lotus is splendidly made and an example of how choice materials stimulate the best efforts of men highly skilled in boot making and proud of their work.

LOTUS

Style booklet and local agent's address sent on request. Write LOTUS, SHOE MAKERS, STAFFORD.

OUTDOOR OCCUPATION.

TO ASSURANCE AGENTS, SALESMEN, COLLECTORS, MEN OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCE, AND OTHERS POSSESSING ABILITY FOR CANVASSING WORK.

Messrs. Kay & Co., Ltd., Universal Providers, Worcester, *established over one hundred years*, have vacancies for several experienced Salesmen-Collectors, and are prepared to consider applications from others possessing the necessary qualifications. Applicants to devote the whole of their time to the business of the Company. Must be men of excellent character, and would be required to pass a Guarantee Society, for which the Company pay the premium.

Permanency, with fixed salary, liberal commission and bonus, sufficient to ensure a good income to capable men.

State age, past experience, and send photo if possible.

THE CONFESSIONS OF A TEETOTALER.

By W. P. P.

(Our contributor explains the mental and physical results of twelve months' abstinence from alcoholic beverages.)

It was not the quite unnecessary warnings of a maiden aunt (who drinks tea five times a day and distributes tracts on temperance), nor Dr. C. W. Saleeby's forceful articles showing the influence of alcohol on the white corpuscles of the blood, nor my own medical man's recommendation that it might be as well for me to give up beer as a too liverish drink under the conditions of London life—it was for none of these things that a year ago I suddenly dropped into teetotalism very much indeed as Mr. Silas Wegg was wont to drop into poetry. Neither supposedly moral nor bodily reasons prompted the decision. It was, I confess, a purely artistic *motif*, a curiosity to experience the state of teetotalism, to understand the outlook and mental and spiritual environment of the teetotaler, just as ten years ago the reverse curiosity and spirit of adventure led me to the first taste and knowledge of beer, to an acquaintance with whisky, and an introduction to wine.

Here let me say that I was born and bred in the wise ways of abstinence, and that not until I was of age did alcoholic beverages enter at all into my dietary. Their use I came to enjoy in what I think I may justly describe as strict moderation. Of a certainty I was never a hard, excessive, nor even a consistent drinker, for a week or two would often pass in which I took neither beer, spirits, nor wine. At the same time, when I needed or desired a bottle of beer or a whisky-and-soda or two in the evening I drank and enjoyed them. Picture me, therefore, as a normal, moderate drinker, who, in the same way as I once, for adventure, gave up smoking for a month, turned teetotaler out of curiosity.

The renunciation called for a little, but for no undue exercise of self-denial on my part. I experienced none of those overmastering cravings which alcohol undoubtedly breeds in some *habitués*. Of course the sudden and complete abstention from stimulants was followed by depression, just as any abrupt departure from ordinary habits, such as giving up tea or meat, requires a certain amount of bodily re-adjustment. Physically, the most notable result—and the point may be interesting to doctors—was a pronounced inclination to sleep. I found myself yawning and nodding quite early in the evening, and conquered by vast sleepiness, going early to bed. Nor did the morning wholly dissipate that appetite for slumber, even after continued nights of nine or ten hours sleep, though when I had been in the habit of taking an evening bottle of beer or the humble tankard of bitter, which Mr. Hilaire Belloc confided to the House of Commons as his invariable night-cap, I had been well content with seven or eight hours' sleep a night.

With this sleepiness, as the first fruit of teetotalism, came a marked lack of initiative. I had not the same mental alertness, the same instinctive energy to grasp a point and to carry an idea or a desire into execution. Medically, I dare say, this may be explained as being the normal and actual state of my faculties, and that the superior alertness which, of old, I fancied myself to possess, was no more than the characteristic hallucination produced by alcohol, which, by dulling the senses, makes one believe that one is working more quickly, thinking more clearly, and speaking more wittily, whereas in fact one is said by scientists to be doing things more slowly, thinking clumsily, and speaking crudely. As a teetotaler, I confess that the reverse was the case with me. Whatever may have been the increase of my actual capacity for work it is undoubted that I had less inclination to work, and that actually I did less work. Led by the very nature of my work to keep an exact and minute record of each day, I am in a position to speak with certainty on this point.

The great difficulty in my experience in teetotalism has been the difficulty of social intercourse. In its essence drinking is a social custom, and the ritual of the bottle is the strongest obstacle against the medical manifestoes and arguments against alcohol. Wine—or its equivalent beer—is the great social solvent, the medium in which man and man find their freest and fullest expression, each of his own self, whatever that self may be. When all is said that can be said, it remains that alcohol is the strongest common denominator of humanity. It breaks down self-consciousness, it creates an atmosphere of confidence and geniality. This was never so strongly impressed upon me as when, in the practice of a teetotaler, I dined or lunched with intimates given to no such social heresy. They turned a pitying, if not reproachful, eye on my new-found creed. I hope I am guilty of no misjudgment, but it seems that my teetotalism was regarded as a sort of reflection upon my non-abstinent friends, temperate though they are in the use of alcohol. Put it how you will, explain it as you may, but a teetotaler is no fit company for non-teetotalers. You may say he is above or below their fellowship, or that they are carried out of themselves by alcohol. You may describe the teetotaler as a strictly normal, natural man, and the others as dehumanised or superhumanised. Here again it must be insisted that this feeling is not dependent on their being flushed with wine, or even approaching that state. It may be a matter of a single whisky and soda on their part and a lemon-squash on yours, but the mere fact that you avoid the former and select the latter sets you apart from them. Fundamentally, indeed, it is the external and the antagonistic difference between the positive and the negative. How negative teetotalism is, one cannot realise until one has tried it.

Whatever the moral and hygienic benefits of total abstinence—and it would be grotesque to deny them in *toto*—there must be set against it a heavy loss in social intercourse, and even friendship. Teetotalers may assert that good fellowship influenced by or dependent on a drug cannot be worth much, or at all events is not of the highest. But man is an infinitely complex creature, and the subtleties that make up life are more dependent on minor, material factors than philosophers or logicians find it convenient to admit. Taking merely the æsthetic aspect of teetotalism, I have found no temperance drink which can compare for one moment with the frank, honest freshness of beer, well quenching the thirst and satisfying the mind, or the delicacy and charm of, say, a '93 claret. The only temperance drink that is worth drinking is plain cold water, and my experience of the last twelve months has shown me that that is the very last beverage teetotalers ever think of drinking. They laud it on the platform, but in practice they consume oceans of tea, coffee or cocoa, and rivers of gaseous, sugary or acid concoctions, shamelessly described as lemonade, orangeade, cyder, ice-cream sodas, etc., etc., though innocent of lemons, oranges, apples, or any manner of fruit. Indeed, in visiting some teetotal friends who rejoiced to hear of my conversion to water-drinking, the one thing they could not realise was that I really did drink water.

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HOW MONEYLENDERS ENDEAVOUR TO ENSNARE BANK CLERKS INTO THEIR NETS.

The manager of a West End branch of one of the leading joint-stock Banks sends us a circular received by a member of his staff from "Richards and Co.," of 10 and 11, Lime Street, and "late of 39, Lombard Street, E.C." It is headed "No Fees or Enquiries," and runs as follows:—

> Your name was published in paper *re* Rifle Clubs, and we take the liberty of addressing this note to you to inform you that we make "*Cash Advances*" from £2 to £200, to Bank Clerks and others without sureties or securities at a low charge.
>
> If you will kindly give us a call or drop us a line we will make you the advance at once.
>
> This letter is sent in *strict confidence*, and we will have no business whatever to do with those under 21 years of age.
>
> We have a good reputation amongst Bank Clerks and others, *and all business is quite private*, we will lend you £10 to repay at £1 a month for twelve months.

The manager asks us to "expose these people's methods, as these moneylending touts are daily bringing many clerks to ruin."

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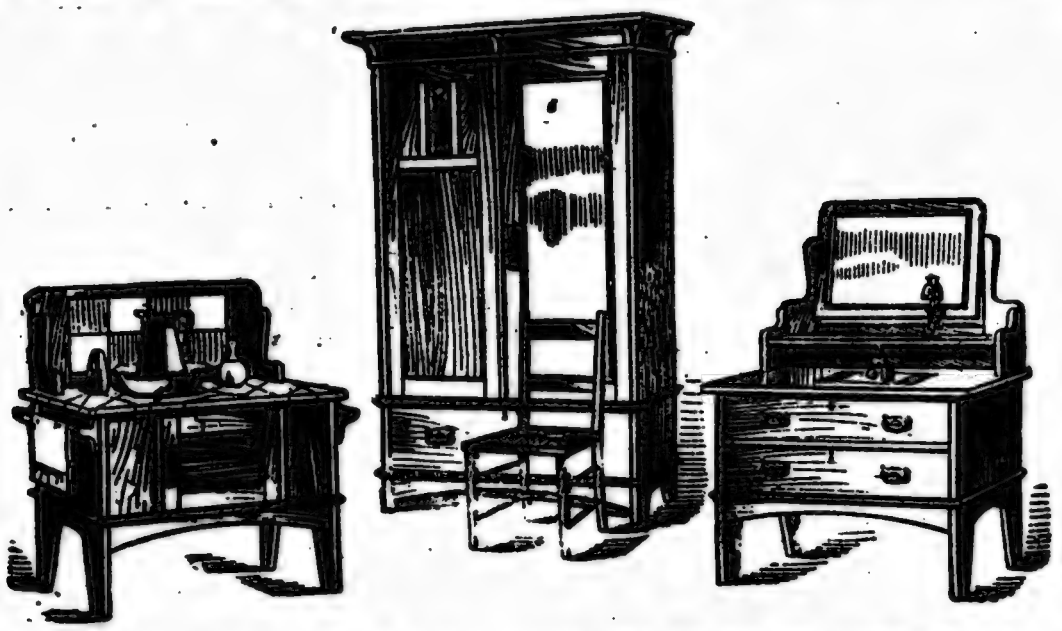
Everything on our premises is marked down at enormous reductions and when sold will in no case be repeated at anything approaching the sale price.

In every instance orders will be executed in strict rotation. Country customers will have the same attention as those in London, as their goods will be taken out of stock immediately upon receipt of order.



OAK BEDROOM SUITE as Illustration, comprising 2ft. wardrobe, with bevelled plate-glass door, dressing chest with landscape shape swing bevelled mirror above, marble top and self-colour tiled back washstand with towel rail fixed, and one rush seat chair. Previous Price £6 16 6. Sale Price **£5 12 6.**

SPECIAL SALE CATALOGUE POST FREE.

We are issuing a Special Sale Catalogue dealing with our great bargains. Copies can be had upon request. Should you wish for a larger list, our Ordinary Catalogue will be sent post free, and we shall have pleasure in arranging special prices in connection with any suite therein with which we are overstocked.

All goods may be warehoused free for 6 months, should the purchaser not wish delivery at once.

We pay country customers' fares to town on all orders of £30 worth and upwards.

Country orders are packed free and carriage paid.

During the Sale we shall allow a special Cash Discount of 10 per cent. Lino and Carpets are planned and laid free.

All our goods can be supplied either for Cash or on our Gradual Payment System, without any extra charge.

Our Gradual Payment System is simplicity itself.

You select your goods, everything is priced in plain figures, and we extend the payments over one, two, or three years, as you desire, and add NO extra charge whatever.

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£100	2 5 0
£200	4 10 0
£500	11 5 0
£1,000	22 10 0
£2,000	45 0 0

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THE MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., LTD.,
15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXXVI.—M. ROSTAND.

Tired of the tedious tangle of party politics, I followed the recent example of certain Cabinet Ministers by seeking solace in Paris, Queen of Inland Watering Places. But instead of finding a soothing calm brooding over silent waterways, as I had anticipated, I discovered to my annoyance that the Gay City (pardon the moth-eaten phrase) was in a ferment.

Every street that remained above water had its serried procession of eager, chattering pedestrians, hastening in a common direction. Intense excitement was printed on every face. Gesticulating hands were flung so high and in such countless numbers that the crowded thoroughfares suggested the passing of a resolution in favour of the Member for South Hackney.

Eager to learn the cause of this outbreak of perfervid enthusiasm, I joined the throng and allowed myself to be swept forward towards an unknown destination.

"M'sieur," I said to a gentleman who was using his right elbow industriously in his frantic efforts to get ahead of me; "M'sieur, what is this that it is? . . . " or words to that effect. "Is it that the floods are returned?"

"What! You do not know?" he cried, his eyes nearly falling from their sockets: "Les inondés! Bah! Eet is something more grand, more tre-mendous! Eet is the play!"

"Queer sort of play," I observed bitterly, disentangling my broken umbrella from between the legs of a portly man who was puffing along at my side. "Still, I must confess it bears some resemblance to an English football crowd. Do you always play like this?"

"But you do not comprehend," expostulated my interlocutor; "eet is not a game, eet is the play, is eet not?"

"You know best," said I; "is it a Cup-tie?"

"*Sacre bleu!*" spluttered the Frenchman; "your head is—what you call eet?—wood. Eet is the play of Monsieur Rostand, 'Chantecler.'"

"Oh, ah," I said; "but we shall not be able to get in. No theatre in the world could hold this crowd!"

"Get in?" screamed my acquaintance, wildly waving his arms; "we do not go for to get in—we go for to see go in those who shall get in. Do you not understand?"

I must interview the man who can stir Paris to such depths as these, I thought. And, fighting my way out of the mob, I hurried by devious paths to the rear of the Porte St. Martin Theatre.

The bare mention of John Bull gained me instant admittance. The famous poet rose from his desk as I entered.

"I can give you but two minutes," he said; "I am re-writing the ninth act. It must be finished to-night, or there will be another postponement."

"Sir," I said severely, "you are getting yourself a fowl reputation. You may be the cock of the dramatic walk, but you should not crow over the impatient Parisian public with these repeated postponements. It is a wonder they do not get the pip."

"But one must advertise!" cried M. Rostand.

"True," I admitted; "and when you abandon playwriting you will always find a good position open for you in some advertising agency."

"Never!" replied M. Rostand with warmth. "The play's the thing."

"Well, your original experiment in theatrical poultry farming certainly promises to pay well," I remarked; "but I trembled for you a fortnight ago."

"For why?" demanded the dramatist.

"When our Chancellor of the Exchequer visited Paris. Surely you are aware that—on his own confession—he has a *penchant* for robbing hen roosts? If duty, or golf, or something, or somebody had not called him to Cannes, who knows what might have happened to your hen pheasant?—although, as is very well known, Mr. Lloyd George's taste lies rather in the direction of the guinea fowl."

"You mean the oof-bird?" laughed M. Rostand. "That also have I in the caste; but it plays an invisible, thinking part."

"I hope you will find it a good layer," I said, and forthwith took my departure, to the accompaniment of a strident "cock-a-doodle-do-o-o," and a chorus of "clucks."

The curtain at last was up.

BRITISH MADE PIANOS

FOR BRITISH HOMES

SINCE 1838 we have been making Pianos that we are proud to say are second to none in the world. They are a credit to British ability and workmanship. They are constructed to stand the vagaries of the British climate, and the prices are within reach of the purse of the British people. Catalogues free.

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Of the many double collars on the market there is no shape more pleasing or which makes a wider appeal than

Summit No 40 SIX for Three Shillings. SAMPLES 6½ EACH.

Specially strengthened where the strain comes —on the fold: true to size in each of its SIX depths. Your tie slips easily on the band, while the 'lock top' keeps both collar front and tie in position. Quarter-sizes.

¶ Send a postcard for the *Summit* booklet: remember, we refund money promptly if the collars do not please you. . . .

AUSTIN REED

THREE CITY SHOPS: 113 FENCHURCH STREET · 5 St. Mary Axe · 157a Cheapside LONDON

The Peak of Perfection

"CANADIAN EMIGRANTS, BEWARE!"

SOME EXTRACTS FROM RECENT LETTERS FROM CANADIAN READERS.

It may interest some of our friends in Great Britain that the Canadian Customs tariff contains many vagaries, one of the most extraordinary being that there is a *duty on catalogues*. Now I don't mean on quantities, printed abroad for Canadian traders, to be distributed by them all over the Dominion, but on odd catalogues sent by one trader outside the Dominion to another inside. Two such catalogues came recently for me from a London firm. It is a large house and their catalogues are somewhat voluminous. The Custom House actually claimed 60 cents = 2s. 6d., on these two catalogues. Not having asked for them and not knowing if I could order, I refused to pay, and the catalogues have gone to the Dead Letter Office, to the annoyance of the sender in London, no doubt. I considered this claim of half-a-crown arbitrary and exorbitant. Complaint to headquarters at Ottowa brought no redress. It is obvious that this clause in the tariff is to hinder English—say British—and other traders doing business in Canada direct with the small man, and so protect not only the home producer, but also the middleman. This is protection in its worst form and only experienced by Great Britain from commercially hostile and envious nations, but never expected from a so-called loyal British colony, whose municipalities, cities of 5,000 and towns of 500, have the whole British money market to go to when they are in need of loans, which is nearly yearly the case, borrowing at a rate of interest which no other money market would give them.

How small and paltry Canadian Customs authorities can be the following will show:—

A German friend sent me for Christmas some photos by post, open at ends, by the ½d. per 2 ozs. rate. The Customs valued these photos at $3 — *or* 12s. 6d. To have put the value at 3s., or 3 marks, would have been nearer the mark. I had to pay one dollar, equal to 4s. 2d., duty. I have sent many a book of pretty photos, pictures of Canadian views to England and other parts of Europe, spending 1s. to 3s. on each lot, and never has there been any duty charged, even in the most highly protected countries. Value is never declared on any such sendings.

Britishers, more than any others, have to put up with many indignities in this country, indignities which must be experienced to be believed. Why, every one of us is at a loss to know, because in all parts of Great Britain the greatest courtesy and consideration is shown every visiting Canadian, and anything Canadian, never to name the millions which go out yearly to Canada in the shape of loans as named above. Americans don't meet with such general dislike and distrust, but are petted and complimented and much made of. During Christmas time many hampers arrive from the States of the value of $10, $20, $30, and never a cent is claimed for duty; and when an European friend sends as a Christmas gift a few pretty photos we are expected to pay duty on any value which an arbitrary Custom House official chooses to fix. I call it unjust, and unfair, causing ill-feeling, to say the least of it. Or are these things put on to us on account of our submissive ways—a creep into a mousehole way—whenever we have a dispute with the foreigner, the man outside? Have to give all and get nothing! JOHN BULL ought to have his eye on all such doings, such injustice, such unfair treatment.

* * *

I should much like to see a branch of the John Bull League formed here—it is badly needed. One of its first objects would be to keep a strict eye on the Lord's Day Alliance. A short time ago our next-door neighbour was fined for working on his own house on Sunday. He was let off with $2 and costs, with a caution thrown in.

The public bars all close at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, and all day on Sunday. Fishing on the Sabbath is strictly prohibited by the laws of the Province of Ontario, and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page 258.

THE PREVENTION OF THROAT TROUBLES.

The number of men, women, and children who constantly suffer from Sore Throat, more especially at this season of damp, fog, and cold presents a problem to the medical practitioner which, lasting given him very serious trouble. At last this problem has been solved, and the means has been found of putting an end to this distressing condition by a discovery which the medical profession hail as one of the most valuable gifts they have received from science.

The way in which this discovery has been made—the nature of the remedy, its powers, and the method of its application—Dr. Andrew Wilson, the eminent authority on hygiene, describes in detail in his latest work, "The Prevention of Infectious Disease."

A GUARD AGAINST INFECTION.

Dr. Andrew Wilson touches the root of the trouble when he says in his work, "Most infectious ailments reach the body through the mouth, hence in times and seasons of influenza, diphtheria, or when scarlet fever and other zymotic ailments are in the air, it will be well to remind ourselves of the value of allowing a 'Formamint' tablet to dissolve occasionally in the mouth If influenza and other infectious troubles are acquired in crowded assemblies, the use of a 'Formamint' tablet under such conditions may be relied on to ward off risks of infection."

Infectious ailments reach the body through the mouth, they develop in the throat, and Wulfing's "Formamint" is the name science has given to the recently discovered remedy for the evil—that is the gist of the matter. But more of Dr. Andrew Wilson's words are worth quoting and seriously reflecting over. He says:—

'No ailments are more painful or annoying than those affecting the throat, nor are there any troubles in which it is more difficult by means of ordinary remedies to reach the parts affected."

MICROBES MADE HARMLESS.

That which science has searched for and found at last, he tells us, "is a substance which shall exercise an antiseptic action, and destroy microbes without injurious effect either upon the mouth or upon the body. Wulfing's 'Formamint' comes to the front as an efficient remedy in Throat troubles by reason of its disinfective powers."

"Wulfing's 'Formamint,'" says Dr. Wilson, "is sold in the shape of tablets, in bottles which can be carried in the satchel. One tablet dissolved in the mouth at intervals allows of the active principle to mingle with the saliva, in which it is freely soluble. Through the saliva it is brought into immediate and close contact with every part of the mouth, pharynx, and throat. In such ailments as 'Smoker's Throat,' 'Clergyman's Sore Throat,' and those affections which distress singers and speakers, 'Formamint' is promptly effective."

"Formamint," Dr. Andrew Wilson tells us, "is a germicide and a sweetener, effective in nature, and, above all, pleasant to use and capable of easy and instant application."

A FREE TRIAL.

To enable "Formamint's" many virtues to be proved, a sufficient supply will be sent free of charge to all patients forwarding a postcard to-day. An exceedingly interesting little book, "The Prevention of Infectious Disease," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, the famous authority on Hygiene, will also be given free.

Application to be made to the manufacturers, A. Wulfing & Co., 12, Chenies Street, London, W.C., mentioning JOHN BULL.

"Formamint" can be obtained from all chemists in bottles containing 50 tablets, at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

Stimulated by the success of Wulfing's "Formamint," many preparations claiming to be as good are being offered to the public This claim is false. "Formamint" is manufactured under Royal Letters Patent. Any attempt to imitate it would render the imitators liable to prosecution. They have, therefore, not imitated its composition, only its form and flavour.

To obtain the certainty of cure of all forms of sore throat insist on having Wulfing's "Formamint."—[ADVT.

OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To His Majesty the King.

SIRE,—Respectful congratulations on determination to purge the Baronetage. There are too many humbugs going about with handles to their names without the least authority from either your Majesty or from heredity. But why only charge £5 when a baronet succeeds or is created? Why not emulate the example of your predecessor, James I.?

JOHN BULL.

To Señor Moret.

SENOR,—I am delighted to hear that you have at last resigned. You ought to have taken this step immediately after your participation in the judicial murder of Señor Ferrer. At the same time, I do not suppose that you can be very sorry to withdraw from office during a religious crisis which is likely to tax abilities far greater than yours. The immediate history of Spain is likely to condense itself into a violent struggle between the Clericals and the Secularists. You and your party and your Sovereign belong to a small Opportunist minority which is doomed to be ground to powder between the upper and the nether mill-stones.

JOHN BULL.

To Lord Kitchener, care of Marconi's Wireless, London.

MY DEAR KIT,—Reuter sent out the other day a message stating that "Amid great enthusiasm Lord Kitchener has left Tasmania." For the life of me I could not understand what you could have done to merit this stupendous outrage. "Well," I said to myself, "if they could not feel sorry they might at least have been silent." Perhaps, however, it was only one of those clumsy expressions to which free education has accustomed us; for everybody knows that your advice on the organisation of the military forces of the Commonwealth has been invaluable.

As you are doing a world tour I don't know whether you have heard the news or not, but they say that the Liberals have got your name down to succeed Lord Minto as Viceroy of India. But whether this is with the idea of keeping you away from the War Office is not stated. Personally, I should like to see you in the Cabinet as War Minister. Still, you would make a great Viceroy; I do not mean one of those magnificent creatures who spreads himself all over the place amid the dazzling splendours of a glorified menagerie in eternal procession; but a strong, wise, and resolute administrator whose worth as an organiser has been proved in peace as well as in war. I have never detected in you either loquacity or swelled head. You neither gas nor gurgle, bounce nor burst, and to such a man, silent and self-contained, I know I could trust India. Be ready therefore for the trust if and when it is offered.

JOHN BULL.

To the Very Rev. John Joseph Robinson, Dean of Belfast.

MY DEAR DEAN,—In reading the *Cathedral Magazine* for February, I find over your name an address which has given me more than ordinary pleasure. Nobody regrets more than I do that so many clergy and ministers of religion have seen fit to use their pulpits in the interests of political parties during the recent elections. In doing this, they have frequently degraded their spiritual office by blasphemous invocations and allusions, distressing and even disgusting to many who, in common with yourself, "believe that the Church should be wider than any party," and "the House of God a temple of peace and humiliation, where the jarring notes of earth are hushed as we enter the presence chamber of the Eternal." By precept and by example, my dear Dean, I cannot doubt you are right in the view you take that "a clergyman in his official capacity has no business to step into the arena of party warfare"; still less can I doubt that, in saying that "those priests in Ireland, as well as the Nonconformist ministers"—and, you should have added, numbers of the clergy—"in England, who have turned their pulpits into platforms for party purposes will find in the end that they have less influence for good over their people." Matthew Arnold somewhere says that there are people who talk as familiarly about Jesus as if He were the man in the next street; and indeed clergy and ministers in almost every city and town and village in the land have been talking about the Highest during the General Election as familiarly as if He were the lodger. I should not have referred to this matter again if it had not been for the earnest and broad-minded protest you make in your magazine. It is a protest which seems to emphasise and approve almost everything I have said on the subject these last few weeks, and for this reason I wished to give it wider influence by wider circulation in view of that other General Election which in a few short months will again involve the country in the clash and turmoil of party strife. *Pax vobiscum!*

JOHN BULL.

To the Proprietors of the "Daily News."

DEAR COMRADES,—I have a bone to pick with you on the score of inconsistency and insincerity.

You took the first and foremost place in denouncing the uncharitable and un-Christian attitude of the Vicar of St. John's, Plumstead, in a recent occurrence in that parish. I am wholly with you in condemning this rev. gentleman for the spirit he displayed. This you will readily acknowledge if you have read my "Open Letter" to him of January 29th.

But let us have justice all round, if you please! How is it you have raised no protest against similar, if not worse, breaches of propriety in the so-called "Free Churches"?

Have you nothing to say about the demonstration in a chapel in honour of Silvester Horne's election? At the parody of the Lord's Prayer in a candidate's election speech, ending, "for *ours* is the kingdom, the power, and the glory"? At a reference in the City Temple to prayers once offered for Mr. Chamberlain's death being greeted with cries of "Hear! hear"? At the frequent travesties of Scripture that have characterised the speeches of a well-known statesman? At the attributing their election to Divine will by certain successful candidates, and their defeat to the machinations of the Devil by others? So far as I know you have not raised a word of protest against any of these. The *pot* should not call the *kettle* black unless it be first well rinsed and scoured itself. I have read somewhere an old saying about the mote and the beam which you would do well to lay to heart. *Verb. sap.!*

JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Bishop of London.

MY LORD BISHOP,—I was attracted the other day by the heading, "Bishop's Fish Story," and being very fond of fish myself, I took the trouble to peruse what turned out to be your speech at a dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant. I know you lay yourself out to be all things to all men, but I am afraid I cannot congratulate you on your success. When abandoning your episcopal dignity, you usually contrive to exhibit yourself in a somewhat foolish light. What was there funny, for instance, in announcing that you did not know whether your hearers had ever thought what an awful thing it was to see on one's luggage "Bishop of London"? One remedy would be to cease parading your name on your trunks. Even your fish story scarcely rises to the low level of other fishy stories. It only emulates them in being obviously untrue. I have no hesitation in saying that I do not believe you "nearly converted all the gillies from Presbyterianism to Episcopalianism" because, after having declared that you would catch six salmon before lunch, by an extraordinary coincidence you had six rises and caught six 18 lb. salmon. I think it would take a good deal more than that to induce a Scottish gilly to change his religion. I suggest that you should return to your proper sphere as a fisher of men, and that greater success will attend your efforts if you do not go out of your way to associate yourself with the Kill-joys of the London County Council.

JOHN BULL.

To Messrs. W. C. Maude, J.P., and E. L. Lane, J.P., Bournemouth.

GENTLEMEN,—I see that when a tramp arrested for begging was brought before you, he said "he should like to make an explanation," but this the magistrates declined to hear and sentenced him to fourteen days' hard labour." Sometimes Justice is lame, and sometimes she is blind, and sometimes she squints; but on this occasion, supposing you are correctly reported, she seems to have been deaf and to have come to court without her ear-trumpet. Don't you know that according to English law every magistrate is bound to hear a prisoner in his own defence? If the facts are as alleged, I should say the man did not receive a fair trial, and that on this ground alone, the conviction ought to be quashed. I crave leave to add, you ought to be quashed also. But it may be that *you* would like to explain!

JOHN BULL.

THE MODERN JUDGMENT OF PARIS.

(With Apologies to the Shade of Rubens.)

WHOM WILL HE FAVOUR?

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Rubber Boom Continues—South and West Africans Advancing—Cheap Money a Factor—A Strong Revival in Sight.

Politics or no politics, the revival in the Stock Markets which has so long been repressed by the prevailing uncertainty will no longer be denied, and the further reduction in the London Bank rate to 3 per cent., combined with the reduction in the German rate, obviously acts as a support. Rates of discount in the open market here are as low as 2¼ per cent., and money is equally plentiful in Continental centres. The collection of taxes for the current financial year will naturally cause a stiffening of rates prior to March 31st, but with the turn of that month funds will be superabundant, and a spell of very cheap money seems assured then. Already the low rate of Bank deposits, 1½ per cent., provides an inducement for investment in securities, and the remarkable successful boom in Rubber shares is giving strong encouragement to the speculative spirit, with the result that, as I anticipated, operators are taking hold of Kaffirs and Rhodesians, while the preparations for a big movement in West Africans continue. A severe collapse in Wall Street has been followed by a moderate rally, and it is satisfactory that New York is pulling itself together again financially, although, owing to the pending decisions of the Supreme Court, it is still dangerous to touch Yankee Rails. Paris is supporting Foreign Government stocks, and the outlook for Home Rails is brighter, but Consols and other Government stocks are still to a considerable extent dependent upon home politics.

Rubber Shares Again "Booming"—Sharp Rise in Para Rubber.

The efforts which have again been made in certain quarters to stop the "boom" in Plantation Rubber shares have proved altogether unsuccessful. In fact, the Bears, both of the shares and of Para Rubber, have had a rough time of it, and a further rise of Middle East Plantation Rubber of from 2d. to 4d. at Tuesday's Mincing Lane auction sales has been followed by a sharp advance of fine hard Para to 8s. 8d.-8s. 9d., which compares with 9s. 3½d., the highest price touched last year (in October) while in February, 1909, the quotation was only from 5s. 0¾d. to 5s. 3¾d. The rise in the raw product has given fresh zest to the movement in Rubber shares and I have a fresh general advance to chronicle, the improvement extending over the whole list of 28 shares which was published in last week's issue, *Linggi*, my old favourites, now one of the strongest spots, rising 3s. to 4os., while *Selangor* are up at 46s. x.d., *Bukit Rajah* at 11⅛, *Sumatra Para* at 10s. 9d. x.d., *Vallambrosa* at 34s. 6d., etc. The most important rise has occurred in *Madagascar Rubber Estates* of £1 to 2⅛ premium, while *Jequié* have improved to 13s., *West Jequié* to 5s. premium. It will be seen that there is still a strong demand for these flotations of the *London Venture Corporation*, and it is not surprising that these shares have advanced to 7s. 6d., although it is too soon to talk of a bonus already. *Molesworth Bros. Rubbers (Ceylon)* have advanced to 4s. 6d., with a strong demand, and these are still some of the cheapest shares. *Chersonese* shares have now risen to 5s. 3d., and the options to 3s. 3d., which seems high enough, and my readers should remember that "no one was ever ruined by taking profits." Amongst Ceylon shares, *General Ceylon* have been in evidence. *Rubber Investment Trust* have fluctuated wildly and are now quoted 39s. 6d., the options at 32s., as compared with the prices of 12s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. respectively at which I recommended these three months ago. It is really time that some statement of the profits of this undertaking should be made, and a dividend should also be forthcoming.

After Rubber—Oil—Standard Oil of Mexico.

It is predicted that the Rubber "boom" will be followed by a "boom" in Oil. In that case the 2s. fully-paid "A" shares of the Standard Oil Company of Mexico, now 3s. to 3s. 6d., should be amongst the first to respond. The capital is only £11,000, while it owns a block of over eight square miles of petroliferous land, very favourably reported upon by leading oil experts. Its neighbour is the well-known Oilfields of Mexico, with a capital of $10,000,000. It is well known that great fortunes have been made out of Oil, which is as much a necessity as Rubber, while it enjoys a free market. It may be said that there is a minimum of risk in buying Standard Oil of Mexico, and a probability of large profits. The "A" shares are entitled to one-half the profits of the Company.

The Argentine Finance Corporation—Why is not the January Coupon Met?

A Bondholder in the Argentine Finance Corporation complains of the non-payment of the coupon due on January 1st last. Very little is known about this concern here, although if it is a well-managed concern it ought to have made money in view of the great prosperity of Argentina. The Bonds are signed M. P. Plumer, Vice-President, New York City, and carry 6 per cent. interest, coupons being attached. Lord Thurlow is connected with the company as "attorney in fact" of the same abroad. The London offices used to be at 68, Victoria Street; the company closed the same "under the Companies Act." These are now transferred to the Quebraska Syndicate, Ltd., as agents, but they appear mostly locked up. Perhaps Lord Thurlow, "attorney in fact," will explain the position.

Kaffirs Advancing—Modderfontein Strong—Harmony Props. Jump—Jungles Bracing Up—Prestea Mines' Splendid Results—Rhodesians Rise.

At last Kaffirs are advancing on a satisfactory January output, a large accession of native labour and an interim dividend of 2s. per share of the *Goldfields*, which shares thereupon rose to 6 1-16. *New Modderfontein*, at 13 3-16 x.d., are leading a rise in Far Eastern Mines. *Rand Collieries* have been bought from the Cape up to 1¾, and these, with *Cinderella Deep* at 2 13-16, and *General Mining and Finance* at 2½, are at present more especially promising. The *City Deep* is expected to crush in October, the *Bantjes* in July, and the *Brakpan* is now inviting tenders for milling plant. *Harmony Props.* have taken a jump to 9s. on the announcement that the *London Venture Corporation* have got the control. The *Harmony Proprietary*, which will be connected with Johannesburg by the Silati Railway this year, has great potentialities with its 26 farms (300 square miles) of richly mineralised ground. Some large options have been done in *Chartered* up to 1 25-32, in anticipation of a favourable directors' report. *Globes*, *Giants*, and *Selukwe* are up, and *Tanks* have improved to 6 3-16. *Sinti* preferences are quoted 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. A cable states that the first level is being driven at both east and west ends. New east shaft is being sunk, width of reef 4 ft., assays over 1 oz. The Jungle market is also bracing up. The most important news comes from the Axim correspondent of the *Financier* that, on present development, *Prestea Mines, Ltd.*, bids fair to outrival its neighbours, including *Block "A,"* in both values and width. The No. 1 shaft (adjoining the Block "A" boundary) continues down in a solid block of quartz, crosscut to 10 feet without sign of wall, and well worth fourteen "'weights." And out of No. 2 shaft values are over 30 dwts. I agree with the correspondent that London does not yet realise this, or else the price would be a great deal higher than 9s. 6d. *Himan Concessions* have taken a jump to 26s. 3d. The *Gold Coast Amalgamated* options will now be exercised. *Taquah Central* 10s. shares f.p. at 2s. 3d. premium are coming to the front. The *Occana Company* is credited with the ambition of floating a company for a million sterling to take over West African properties—rather a tall order. The Copper position in the States is still doubtful, and there is as yet little prospect of arranging. *Utah Bingham* at 8s. 9d. to 9s., are receiving some attention, and would apparently be well to the front in any further improvement.

Lever Brothers.

A well-informed correspondent says:—The time is near at hand for Lever Brothers' annual meeting, and I think this year it will be as interesting as upon the two preceding occasions. In the first place, owing to their dropping the price of "Sunlight" by £4 per ton on January 1st last year and allowing their customers that amount for any they may have had in stock, they must have started the year with £50,000 to £100,000 against them, leaving out a special bonus which they paid on trade done during the year 1908. The balance-sheet for 1908 was none too rosy, as you pointed out, but during that year the price of raw material was very much in their favour; while during the year that is past, soap materials, from the first, continued to rise, until at the end of the year, one of the principal ingredients had risen 12s. per cwt, and another 8s., and others 4s. or 5s. So if, with materials much lower, and the price of the principal soap 4s. higher, the balance sheet for 1908 was a poor one, what must be the one for 1909? By the bye, why are the auxiliary companies, or whatever they may be called, brought into Lever Brothers' annual balance sheet, for all the following are practically private family concerns, *i.e.*:—"Vinolia," "Hodgson and Simpson," "Bamboro' Estate Co.," and "Hudsons"?

JOINT STOCK TRUST AND FINANCE CORPORATION.

Our attention has been called to a touting circular signed E. R. A. Bennett, issued in collusion with the notorious firm of solicitors, Carter and Bell, who were recently reprimanded by the Law Society. The object of this circular is to get innocent shareholders into the clutches of this firm. They will be fools if they fall into the trap.

NEW ISSUES.

MORE RUBBER PROSPECTUSES.—Rubber properties are now being rushed out from all parts of the world, so as to still participate in the present boom. There is, for instance, *La Martona Rubber Estates, Ltd.*, capital £250,000. This company acquires a freehold rubber and timber property in Bolivia. This is described as virgin forest, but the whole prospectus merely contains estimates, which may or may not be borne out by results, and the proposition is not attractive. There is also *British Honduras Rubber, Ltd.*, capital £95,000, which is to acquire rubber and cocoa estates, but some of the trees are only three years old, and estimates also abound in this prospectus; while, finally, the *Segamat (Johore) Rubber Estates*, capital £65,000, will, even in 1912, only have an estimated output of 12,450 lbs. of rubber. Investors, therefore, are not likely to fall over one another to subscribe for these.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

ASIAKWA, ETC.—SUTTONIAN.—(1) As the company is now actually in liquidation, I do not see what is to be done. It remains for the shareholders to approach the liquidator collectively with a proposal. (2 and 3).—Neither of these companies are any longer in existence.

DICK KERR PREFS.—PLATA.—*Dick Kerr Prefs.* are a fair industrial, but as you already have money in this concern, why not put the £100 in some other share—*Vickers and Maxim Five per cent. Preference*, for instance—at about 1½. I do not know any stockbrokers at Preston, and you would be better advised to deal with a London firm. I send you the address of a suitable broker by post.

MINING INVESTMENTS.—J. G. (Forfar).—(1) I send you the address of a firm of stockbrokers, as requested. (2) Your selection of South African, West African, and other mines is a good one. *Durban Roodepoort, Ashanti Goldfields, West Rand Consolidated, El Oro*, and *New Goch* are the dividend-payers amongst them. It should not be long ere the *Cinderella Deep* reaches that stage, while the *Prestea Block A* and *Prestea Mines* have not yet entered the crushing list, but are very promising.

FIVE DERELICT PROPERTIES.—BERYL.—I regret to have to tell you that out of the five concerns mentioned, not one is in existence at the present day.

RUBBER SHARES, ETC.—GLOUCESTER.—(1) Take your profit on *Chersonese* on the next rise. (2) Leave these Diamond shares alone for the present. (3) *Straits Bertam* have had such a big rise that I hesitate to recommend a purchase, except on a distinct decline. UNCLE SAM.—I send you, as requested, the address of a suitable firm of brokers, who do not mind dealing in small amounts. West Jequie or Molesworth are as good as any to buy at present amongst low-priced rubber shares.

DE DION HOUTON.—MOTORIST.—It is very difficult to advise, as much must also depend upon general conditions in the motor industry. There is no doubt that the competition is getting keener every day, and only those concerns can hope to hold their ground which are financially sound. Under the circumstances, I am inclined to advise you to watch your opportunity and sell at any favourable moment.

£250 FOUR PER CENT. STOCK.—RICHMOND.—The following selection should suit you:—*Union Castle Mail Steamship Four per Cent. Debenture* at 98, *Vickers, Sons and Maxim Second Four and a-Half per Cent. Mortgage Debentures*, redeemable by annual drawings at 105, *City of London Electric Light Second Four and a-Half per Cent. Debentures*, redeemable 1911, at 102.

FOUR PER CENT. INVESTMENTS, ETC.—NEW READER.—I send you the address of a reliable firm of stockbrokers, as requested. You might put the £150 into Great Central Perpetual Five per Cent. Preference Stock, quoted at about 124, thus yielding something over 4 per cent. per annum. The other £50 you might invest in, say, Randfontein Central or Randfontein South.

LONDON CENTRAL MOTOR OMNIBUS.—BIFFED.—There is practically no market for these shares, beyond a nominal quotation of about 2s. For the year 1907-8 there was a profit of £1,084, and the debit brought forward was converted into a credit of £70.

RANDFONTEIN SOUTH DIVIDEND.—T. M. J. (Bootle).—Of course, you are entitled to the dividend, which, however, has not been paid yet, but no doubt one of the next mails will bring the same.

MINES, ETC.—MAT.—Hold Consolidated Mines Selection (1), Amalgamated Props. (3), Roodepoort United (4), and New Axim (6). I do not care for either Choffers (2), Strattons (5), or Mungana (7). As regards No. 8, Dangan Rubber 2s. shares are quoted at about 4s., and, presuming that you have a profit thereon, you had better take it. Concerning Mexican Rails (9), everything depends for the present upon the forthcoming dividend announcement.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.—C. J. B.—Under the contract with the Secretary of State for India, the company is to receive back the capital in sterling at par. Negotiations are in progress for the reconstitution of the company at the termination of the existing contract at the end of the present year. I should think that there is every prospect of a renewal of the present agreement on almost the same lines.

NEW RIETFONTEIN.—REX.—Present price 1 3-16. (1) Yes, hold; the statement is correct. (2) Yes. (3) No. Molesworth Bros. Rubber Estates, now 4s., are by far preferable.

FERREIRA DEEP.—T. D. (Lewes).—Ferreira Deep, at their present price of 5£, yield £9 5s. 9d. per annum, and the life of the mine is estimated at 15 years.

COLOMBIAN RAILWAY BONDS.—G. H. P.—(1) No reason to sell Colombian National Railway 6 per cent. Customs Guaranteed Bonds. (2) Yes. (3) They will probably improve.

BRITISH ALUMINIUM PREFS.—E. W. Y.—The reconstruction is to be carried out under good auspices, and prospects are hopeful. Rather than make the loss you should join.

FINANCIAL ADVICE.—F. C. B.—(1) Fairly well written, but not altogether reliable. (2) No. (3) No. You should deal with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange.

MANCHESTER HOUSE COMPANY.—ONFIELD.—I know nothing against the company, but you should make enquiry in Manchester.

"HOUSE" BROKER.—CIPTON (Peckham).—You are quite right to heed a warning. There will be no difficulty to deal in Canadian Pacifics in this way, and what you require has been forwarded. PREFERENCE (Liverpool).—It is very difficult to deal in the shares of skating rinks, and for many there is no market, but I send you the name and address of a respectable firm, members of the Stock Exchange, who would do what they could for you.

CITY DEEP.—MAN IN STREET.—This mine will enter the producing stage by October, and will then earn good profit, when the price should be much higher than now. Yes, the life is correctly stated. What you require has been forwarded.

AMERICAN RAILS.—The time is probably not far off when American Rails can be dealt in again without too much risk. (1) No. (2) What you require is forwarded. (3) Yes. (4) Leave it at the Savings Bank.

RAND COLLIERIES.—FORTUNA.—(1) Rand Collieries should be held for an important advance. (2) These Bank shares are first-class, but you cannot expect a big rise in them. What you require has been forwarded.

AGENCY.—PROVIDENT ENGINEER.—I do not like the system of this concern, which has been repeatedly criticised.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—YORKSHIRE LAD.—No, I do not advise dealing with the Anglo-American Investment Trust, of Shaftesbury Avenue. You should deal with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange. M. A. (Hull).—Same reply as above. I do not advise dealing with 1 or 2, if you do not want to lose your money. J. S. E. (South Wales).—Outside brokers You should deal with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange. These rubber shares are high enough, West Jequié Rubber at 4s. 9d. premium, or Molesworth Bros. Rubber Estates at 4s. are cheaper. J. G. (Leith).—Same reply. (1) Balkis shares should be held for an improvement. (2) No; high rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. (3) The same Rubber shares as above should be suitable. IVER BACH.—(1) I never recommend outside brokers. (2) United Serdang Rubbers are high enough at present price. (1) I cannot advise with regard to outside firms; you must be aware of my views upon the subject. (2) You could not recover in the British Courts, at any rate. (3) I do not advise you to have any dealings with the people in question. I send you in your envelope the address of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of dealings in Premium Bonds. J. W. B. H.—You do not suppose that outside brokers know more than inside brokers, and surely you do not expect to make unlimited profits without a great deal of risk? I send you what you require, and you had better apply to the firm in the first instance. They will naturally require references. FIFTY.—(1) Outside brokers of a dubious kind; have nothing to do with them. (2) Certainly not. (3) Yes. (4) I send you the address of a suitable firm, as desired. H. V.—You had better close at once, and deal only with members of the Stock Exchange in future. As regards your last question, some do, but I believe it is the usual course to go to a bank.

PREMIUM BONDS.—VENTURE.—The bonds are all right. No doubt you have been charged too much. But on this and on drawings the firm of foreign bankers in London, whose address I am sending you, will fully advise you, as they make a speciality of them. REX. (Grimsby).—I am afraid a far higher price has been charged than you can buy these bonds in the market. I send you the name of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who will look after the matter for you. N. C. H. E.—I have sent you name of a respectable firm of foreign bankers, who will advise you well. L. R.—I send you the address of the firm of foreign bankers in question. (1) You must know my views upon this subject. (2) I am afraid not; the concern is more than doubtful. BUTCHER (Burton-on-Trent).—I do not know the firm in question, but you would be well advised to deal only through a respectable firm in London. If you wish it, and send a stamped addressed envelope, I will be pleased to forward you the address of a suitable firm.

£600 FOR INVESTMENT.—FRANK.—The best of the shares mentioned are Price's Patent Candle, Vickers and Maxim, and Brunner Mond. No reason to sell Harrods Stores, which have just increased their dividend. Canadian Pacifics are a good holding. As regards the small bank question, it would be advisable to risk only small amounts.

SMALL BANK, ETC.—C. W.—Such investments are to be recommended only for small amounts. I must confess I have no information concerning the Conservative Rubber Production Company, San Francisco, and I strongly dissuade you from buying its shares, if only because they are unmarketable here. M. L. T.—It is obvious that you cannot expect to obtain from 7 to 10 per cent. interest, without running considerable risk, and you must yourself decide whether you should do so. To my mind, you should only risk quite a small amount, and invest the balance in sound securities. C. E. W.—You want to have 7 per cent, and are most anxious to be absolutely safe. This is not possible, and personally I think you had better invest in sound securities, to bring you in 4 or 5 per cent.

STOCK EXCHANGE PROCEDURE.—SCOTTIE.—(1) Yes. Messrs. Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle Street, E.C., publish such works at very reasonable prices. (2) All depends upon what you want to buy. (3) It is rather slow, why not hurry up the secretary of the company?

SMALL BANK DEPOSITS.—FORFARSHIRE.—I can only tell you that high rates of deposit are not compatible with safety, and that in any case you should not risk more than a small sum. A. J. R. (Westcliff).—I must confess that I am not enamoured of this scheme, but you must please yourself in the matter After all, the amounts are very small.

£500 FOR INVESTMENT.—INCOME.—You are quite right to spread the money over as many stocks as possible, in order to minimize the risk and obtain a good average yield. Of the stocks mentioned I prefer the following:—South Eastern 6 per cent. Preferred (1); Mexican Railway First Preference (3); Bovril Prefs. (4); Workington Iron Prefs. (8); Peruvian Corporation First Mortgage Debentures (13), and South Durham Steel Prefs. (15).

BRAZILIAN RAILWAY.—ANXIOUS.—Litigation is in progress between the Porto Alegre and New Hamburg Railway Company and the Brazilian Government with regard to the terms of expropriation, and the position must depend thereon. I regret I cannot help you with regard to Holophane, Limited; the concern is not even mentioned in the usual books of reference.

DEEP LEVELS, TEA SHARES.—CARPET SLIPPER.—Hold South Randfontein Deep. As regards Darjeeling Tea, these £10 shares are now quoted at 4½, and it might be as well now to await at least a moderate recovery.

FOURTEEN MINING SHARES.—A. C. C.—The following would be the best selection:—Knight Central (1), Rand Collieries (4), Consolidated Goldfields (5), Ganti Mines (7), Abbontiakoon (8), Northern Copper (12). As regards Broken Hill Props. (14), everything now depends upon when the Australian coal strike really comes to an end, while also the condition of the metal markets must be taken into account.

CANADIAN DEEP LEADS.—JAY DAY.—I regret that I am not in possession of any definite information regarding the position and prospects of the Canadian Deep Leads, which does not even appear in the latest books of reference.

TRUNK FOUR PER CENT. DEBENTURE.—SCRUTATOR.—The 4 per cent. Debenture stock is absolutely safe and must get its interest, whatever happens, unless the company goes into bankruptcy, which, of course, is out of the question. Under the circumstances, you should not sell now.

American Rails.—J. P.—It is more than usually difficult to advise with regard to American Rails at present, owing to the Government activity against the Trusts. If you are prepared to take your chances, Union Pacifics, Southern Pacifics, Northern Pacifics, and Atchison are the most suitable for speculation. You should buy on distinct reactions, and take quick profits.

House Purchase.—C. A.—I do not like the system, and it would have been far better to have dealt with a Building Society if you want really to purchase a house, but you must yourself decide whether you care to lose some of the premiums paid. D. C. R.—I do not like the system of this company with their bond arrangements, and I think you could do far better by dealing with a respectable Building Society, if you want to buy the house at once.

Issuing House of London, Limited.—What can you expect when you deal with outside brokers, however high-sounding a name they may adopt? I am afraid you have little chance of getting your money back and your only plan is to insist upon immediate payment. The documents are returned.

West Africans.—R. C. F.—I send you the address of a suitable firm of stockbrokers. There has already been a big rise in Sekondi and Tarkwa, on the strength of a rumoured important deal, and it would be better to go into shares which have not risen so much, Prestea Mines or New Axims, for instance.

Low-Priced Rubbers.—A. L. M.—Attractive low-priced rubber shares are now getting as difficult to find as a needle in a haystack, but Molesworth and West Jequie are still worthy of attention. I send you the address as requested.

Bank Shares.—N. C.—All three bank shares mentioned; viz., Parr's, London and South Western, and London Joint Stock, are good investments, especially after the decline; but absolutely "safe" investments can only be got in gilt-edged securities, Consols, and the like.

£600 For Investment.—J. A. W.—Safety being the first consideration, the Metropolitan Consolidated stock would be preferable to the Gas stock, although the latter is also promising. Other suitable investments would be London County Council securities, West Australian 3½ per cents., while leading Home Rails are not to be despised. Amongst the latter, the Preferred Ordinary stocks of the North British and Caledonian Railways should suit you.

Rubbers, Jungles.—Olly.—(1) Molesworth. (2) Prestea Mines and Tarkwa Central should be suitable. (3) If you have a profit, take it. (4) Southern Albertas are promising, but it would be preferable to buy on a reaction.

West Africans.—Seek and Find.—In view of your position, it would be advisable not to speculate too heavily, as West African Mines, however promising, are obviously not in the same street as Consols. (1) Yes, you can buy 25 shares. (2) Prestea Mines. (3) Yes, I send you the address of a suitable firm.

£100 For Investment.—J. O. D.—Presuming that you wish to stick to gilt-edged securities only, you might place this sum into Western Australian 3½ per cents., which offer the highest return consonant with absolute safety.

Home Rails for Investment.—H. R.—You have made a good selection of Home Rails for investment, viz., Great Western, Tilbury, and Brighton Ordinary, for the investment of your £350, and you should do well therein.

West African Specs.—M. P. S.—I send you the address of a suitable firm of stockbrokers. The best shares on your list are Fanti Consols, Wassau, and Abosso, and you might add thereto Prestea Mines.

Small Home Concern.—J. M. B.—I do not like this type of concern, and you would be better off in the long run to deal with one of the leading Building Societies, such as the Birkbeck, Temperance, or National Freehold.

Three Rubber Shares.—Bullite 367.—Yes, both Molesworth and West Jequie are promising purchases for a rise, and you could deal in them in small numbers. Take a fair profit on Ceara Rubber.

Molesworth Rubbers.—E. L. C.—The shares in question are a promising rubber speculation, but you must know my views regarding outside firms. I send you the address of a suitable firm.

National Share Exchange.—H. T. (Stoke-on-Trent).—Is it not the fact that the Exchange, rather than have a disagreement, re-credited you with an amount which had been lost—for which generous treatment you thanked them in extravagant terms? In spite of this, however, you subsequently took out a County Court summons for £6, which amount—rather than incur the expense and trouble of travelling down to Stoke to defend so small a case—the Exchange paid into Court. J. E. M. (Dover).—Owing to an advance in price in New York, the Union Pacifics stood the morning instructions were received, at 210⅜. Dealing at the first official tape price, the contract as sent was quite in order. B. B. (Handsworth).—Though you send a sheaf of figures, you do not appear to make out any valid claim. "Ninety" (Wadebridge).—The account appears to be in perfect order. As stated in the firm's booklet, with one per cent. margin you are entitled to no more than one per cent. profit—2 per cent. margin, 2 per cent. profit, and so on. "Eve" (Barnes).—It appears that after the transaction was entertained, New York prices receded, and the margin became exhausted the day after it opened. "Balling" (Balham).—Writing on January 5th, you say you gave instructions on Tuesday morning (i.e., the previous day) to close the account and remit profits, and complain that they sent you the cheque on the 8th, which seems to us a reasonable time. C. F. N. (Chichester).—We are informed that cheque in respect of the option expiring on 28th December was sent you on 10th January. If so, you were rather premature in writing on 4th January that you "fear the Exchange is a fraud."

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

House Purchase.—T. E. (Devonport).—We cannot recommend the Society you name. If you want to purchase a house by the means suggested, it is far better to go to one of the leading offices which do that kind of business.

Insurable Interest.—Uncertain (Leeds).—A wife has an insurable interest in the life of her husband provided she is dependent upon him for support, but not necessarily on that of her father. Ties of blood or sentimental attachment are not sufficient to constitute insurable interest, neither is expectation or hope of receiving a certain benefit from a person.

The Regal Fire and Accident Company, Ltd.—S. W. P. (Bangor).—The policy seems quite in order. This company was established some 10 years ago with an authorised capital of £10,000, of which £5,600 has been subscribed.

Three Insurance Companies.—J. P. L. (Harborne).—Of the three you name, we prefer the first for your purpose, but we think you might do better with another.

Status of Company.—J. K. P. (Penge).—It is not a company of standing. Why not go to one that is. A. F. R. (Braintree).—Have nothing to do with the company you name. W. A. (Liverpool).—It is in the very front rank of insurance offices. It is one of the oldest companies in the world, having been incorporated in 1720, and its methods are liberal and progressive. H. F. (Leicester). It is a small but safe company, subsidiary to a well-known one. The business is not being pushed, the risks being largely restricted to fire insurances in respect of property upon which mortgage advances have been made by the controlling company.

The United Provident Assurance Company.—S. T. (Leeds).—You have omitted to send the fee. J. L. S. (Salisbury).—Ditto. Fields (Leeds).—Ditto. Uncertain (Gateshead).—Ditto.

Purchase of Shares, Etc.—F. B. (Gloucester).—We cannot advise you to buy any of the shares of the company you name; nor do we think you would be well advised in giving up permanent employment to take up a position with this company.

The Universal Insurance Company.—Policy Holder (Leeds).—We should not advise it. We understand that organic changes are in contemplation.

THE TORMENTS OF

INDIGESTION

You have heard the old story of the torment of Tantalus? He was chained up to his neck in water, but he could never put his lips to it. Indigestion is worse than that. Some of its victims can't look at food. Some force themselves to eat and suffer fearful griping pains. Others have bad headaches, bilious attacks, and the horrors of constipation. All those yellow-faced, dull-eyed, nervous, fit-for-nothing people you meet are suffering the torments of Indigestion! Are you such a person? If so, Mother Seigel's Syrup is the remedy you need. The medicinal, herbal extracts of which it is made will tone and strengthen your stomach, so that it can digest food; and they regulate the action of the liver and bowels. In this way, Mother Seigel's Syrup will banish the torments of Indigestion, make food nourish you, and give you the vigorous, cheerful health you desire. Test it now to-day! Mr. & Mrs. Rodway, of Hillesley, Wotton-under-Edge, say:—"We have known the value of Mother Seigel's Syrup for over 20 years, and have never known it to fail to cure troubles of the stomach."

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MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

The 2/6 bottle contains three times as much as the 1/1½ size.

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Marvellous as it may seem after centuries of failure, a remedy has been discovered that has cured the deadly Consumption even in the advanced stages of the disease. No one will longer doubt that Consumption can be cured after reading the proof of hundreds of cases cured by this wonderful discovery—some after change of climate and all other remedies tried had failed, and the cases had been pronounced hopeless of cure. This new remedy has also proved itself effective and speedy in curing Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, and many serious throat and lung troubles. In order that all in need of this wonderful produce of science may test its efficacy for themselves, a company has been formed to give it to the world, and a Free Trial Treatment can be obtained by writing the Derk P. Yonkerman Co., Ltd. (Dept. 185), 6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., England. Send no money, simply mention this paper, and ask for the Free Trial Treatment. It will be sent you by return mail, carriage paid,

ABSOLUTELY FREE

Don't wait if you have any of the symptoms of Consumption, if you have Chronic Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, pains in your chest, a cold on your lungs, or any throat or lung trouble, write to-day for a free trial treatment and book of instructions and cure yourself before it is too late.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

BY M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"RICHELIEU."

Well, it is news to me indeed to read in one of London's leading daily newspapers that Bulwer Lytton's magnificently written play, "Richelieu," is but a "tawdry and artificial" piece at best. Why some of Lord Lytton's wonderful lines are so often quoted, and so well known, in this masterpiece of theatrical work, that its graceful thought, its marvellously vigorous language, its religious intensity, and poetic fancy can never be wholly forgotten to the students of fine literature and beautiful verse.

The revival at the Strand Theatre of Bulwer-Lytton's drama has served to introduce us to a young actor whose very earnestness and sincerity of purpose alone deserve a better recognition than they have received from the Press in general.

Mr. Robert Hilton may possess a few peculiar mannerisms, which render his always picturesque and dignified performance somewhat imperfect as a whole, but no one can deny that this actor has splendid moments which when in the fulness of their power, get right there.

To tackle so enormous and lengthy a part as Lytton has swathed Richelieu in, is no easy task I can assure you, and the fox-like face, lynx eyes, and iron will of France's greatest statesman are all made fascinatingly life-like by Mr. Hilton, who wears his gorgeous robes and biretta as if he had been born and bred in them.

And surely never was sweeter Julie seen on any stage than pretty Marie Polini, who together with handsome young De Mauprat in the person of Mr. Lionel Atwill, are about as charming a pair of lovers as you can imagine.

Then again, although but a small character in the play, Mr. J. H. Barnes makes of Father Joseph a figure to be remembered, his acting is so polished, so clean-cut, so altogether neat, and yet so unobtrusive.

The whole production is on a most lavish scale, and the famous old play is preceded by a "Wordless Phantasy," by Aimée Lowther, who has given it the fanciful title of "The Dream Flower," in which Miss Mabilia Daniell makes a most delightful Pierrot. Her movements are all of that large and most effective kind, so little understood here by English actresses, and she thoroughly understands both the art and meaning of "pantomime" in its truest sense.

THE REPERTORY THEATRE.

At last Charles Frohman's plans for his Repertory Theatre at the Duke of York's are gradually maturing, and at present it is arranged that this "Napoleon of Stageland" commences his proceedings on February 3rd with John Galsworthy's latest work, "Justice," to be followed up a couple of days afterwards by a play from the satirical pen of Bernard Shaw, named "Misalliance," and change upon change of programme will be so swiftly made—at least, so we are told—that I should not be surprised if we had at last a real live Repertory Theatre, and not the imaginary one we were promised some while ago down the Haymarket way.

ROSTAND'S "ROOSTERS."

Reading between the lines of many comments written around Edmond Rostand's "Farmyard Fancy," I have come to the conclusion that if not exactly non-successful, the author of Cyrano de Bergerac's new venture is anything but a brilliant triumph. I'm going over to Paris to see for myself in a day or so, and feel sure that I shall not require to wait, as M. Alfred Capus, another French author, so *sympathetically* suggests for the hundredth representation to make up my mind whether "Chantecler" is going to be a "big go" or make a "little stay."

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

February 15th.—SIR FREDERICK TREVES.
Cut and come again.—*Crabbe.*

February 16th.—PROFESSOR ERNST HAECKEL.
Smile at the claims of long descent.—*Tennyson.*

February 19th.—DR. SVEN HEDIN.
You have seen,
Have acted, suffered, travelled far observed
With no incurious eye.—*Wordsworth.*

February 19th.—MADAME PATTI.
For now my song is ended.—*Shakespeare.*

With reference to our recent paragraph regarding the commutation of soldiers' pensions, by a printer's error the age at which commutation is allowed was stated to be 55, instead of 35.

CHAIRMAN: To those qualities of fine flavour and aroma that one requires for real enjoyment in smoking it adds the unusual attribute of coolness.
Whether smoked much or little it is always cool, always pleasing and burns evenly to the last shred.
BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco milder, and
RECORDER the same, but fuller flavoured.
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This Splendid course of training is, for a limited period, offered at half the usual fees, in order to extend to all classes an opportunity—hitherto confined to the well-to-do—of benefiting by instruction which has spelt success to thousands.

It is confidently anticipated that this offer will not only attract a sufficiently large number of students to compensate for the sacrifice of half the fees, but that it will prove a magnificent advertisement for the Pelman School, because, as we know from experience, every student means added testimony to the value of the training and enthusiastic recommendation to his or her friends.

Your Future Depends on Your Memory.

YOU owe your present position to the efficiency of your memory, your future success is impossible without the possession of a good memory.

The truth of these apparently sweeping assertions is evident when you consider that all knowledge is neither more nor less than memory. You know nothing except what you remember. For instance, you know you can post a letter weighing four ounces for 1d., simply because you remember (unconsciously and without effort, of course) that it is one of the Post Office regulations.

You can develop this faculty of unconsciously absorbing and classifying in your memory a practically inexhaustible number of facts of big and little importance, each of which will automatically spring to your aid when required, by training your natural memory on the scientific principles of the Pelman System.

You are paid a certain salary for the knowledge and ability you possess. A better memory means greater knowledge and increased ability. The sooner you can acquire these the sooner will you be fitted for promotion and a larger salary.

Your brain, however clever you may be, has not yet reached anything like the limit of its power. It is incomparably easier to develop and train your brain by the Pelman System than to develop muscular strength by physical culture.

To wade through dry and lengthy books is worse than useless—it means drudgery and brain fag, it means mental indigestion, it helps to destroy rather than to improve one's memory because it makes "confusion worse confounded." The right way, and the only way to stimulate the brain, increase its power and efficiency and enable your memory to derive the full benefit from your reading and from the daily experiences of business routine, social intercourse and life generally is to practice the easy and fascinating exercises comprising the Pelman Course of Training.

These simple and progressive exercises may be done in any spare moments and while you are at work (without interfering with it, but on the contrary, helping you to do it better). This is all the Pelman System entails and the result will astonish and delight you—the improvement effected in a few weeks seems almost miraculous, yet it is merely the logical outcome of the application of well-known laws of mental science. Your memory will be permanently improved. You will aquire powers of concentration, penetration, ability to think clearly, quickly and accurately, to do more and better work with half the effort formerly required.

We offer you, on terms you can easily afford, a course of training you can ill afford to be without

—it will enable you to do more and better work with less effort; to increase your earning power, enlarge your capacity for pleasure, and overcome all tendency to worry.

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Mr. C. L. Pelman, who has an international reputation as the leading authority on memory-training, was the pioneer discoverer of the application of Nature's Laws to the scientific development of the natural memory. Herein is the secret of the superiority of the Pelman system to all other methods of memory culture which are based on the substitution of artificial aids for the great natural latent power with which every brain is endowed.

Mr. Pelman has devoted his life to the study of the cultivation of mental power, and his system, the outcome of years of experiment and research, has proved its soundness, efficiency and value by the actual experience of tens of thousands of pupils.

His success necessitated the translation of his system into French, German, Russian, Italian and Dutch, and the establishment of Pelman Schools in the principal countries of the Globe.

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While it is not permissible to publicly state the names of the many distinguished personages who have availed themselves of Mr. Pelman's System of Memory-training the list of his pupils includes reigning monarchs, princes, prelates, statesmen and eminent men in almost every calling in which the highest degree of mental efficiency and memory power is essential to success.

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You are afforded every facility for personally investigating the absolute genuineness of the Pelman System, without risk or obligation, by sending for the free booklet which gives full particulars regarding the system and contains testimonials from pupils and extracts from the World's Press.

Send this coupon to-day for a free copy and enrolment form on the special half-fee terms. The offer is for a limited period. You cannot afford to miss this chance.

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Mind-wandering, forgetfulness and Brain-fag.

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

THE CASH REGISTER DECISION.

It is to be regretted from the public point of view that the case of Rylet *v.* the National Cash Register Co., Ltd., tried before Mr. Justice Ridley and a special jury last week, was made a test case. It was not fairly representative of the large number of purchases which, as is contended, were followed by breach of contract on the part of the National Cash Register Co. It was so fully recognized by the National Cash Register Co. as being a weak case that they took it out of the Accrington County Court, where it was originally put down for trial, and in doing so, of course, had to undertake to pay the difference in costs as between what they would have been in the County Court and what they actually were in the High Court, with Mr. Rufus Isaacs and Mr. Montague Lush on the one side and Mr. Duke on the other. From the point of view of the company this was a very wise move, for although it must have cost them a large sum of money in one way and another, it was of first importance to them to obtain a verdict in what they might describe as a test case in the High Court, where the decision would be certain to have much more influence upon other claims than one in their favour could have if it only came from a County Court judge.

With a good deal that was said on the plaintiff's side in the High Court we have little sympathy. Mr. Duke made much of the fact that the plaintiff signed the agreement to purchase hurriedly at a railway station, and he contended, without supporting it by anything like evidence, that the canvassers for the company made it a practice to ask tradesmen to buy these Registers when they were busy selling to customers. It is no sufficient plea on the part of a man who wishes to evade the consequence of a contract to say that he had given its contents insufficient attention at the time he signed.

The ground upon which, as it has always seemed to us, purchasers of the National Cash Registers could properly demand rebate is that these machines were sold upon the specific understanding that the price would never be lowered. It was represented to tradesmen, to whom the payment of anything between £20 and £100 was a serious consideration, that although the outlay for the machine was large, yet they could always properly count it as an asset of their business. For example, the plaintiff in the present case gave £43 for his machine. It was specifically represented to him that if within three years he wished to sell it the company would pay him £35 for it, and if within five years £25, and he was assured in the most positive way, again and again, that in no circumstances would the company lower the price of the machine. They had, he was told, the patents of all machines bearing, however remotely, upon the principle of the National Cash Register. Accordingly, there could be no other rival in the market to reduce the price; on the contrary, they had more than once raised it, and it was very likely that they would raise it again. Upon these representations, representations that have not been disputed, many doubting tradesmen consented to buy. And in this particular instance the argument so often used by companies in reply to improper representations of their agents, namely, that these agents were not authorised to make such representations, does not apply, because, as we have stated in these columns, and as was proved at last week's trial, there has been for many years past a school in the Tottenham Court Road, at the headquarters of the company, conducted by the directors of the company, where canvassers for the company are taught their business. So that the company were clearly bound, or one would have thought they would be clearly bound, by the representations of their agents.

Coming back to the case tried before Mr. Justice Ridley, the Judge—who, by the way, is one of the weakest on the Bench—refused to allow the case to go to the jury on the ground that the plaintiff signed a hiring agreement, and that there was nothing to show that he signed it by means of fraud. Mr. Duke argued for the plaintiff that there was a collateral, written agreement, *i.e.*, the agreement to take back the machine at a certain price if asked to do so and not to sell new machines at a lower price than that paid by the plaintiff, and that by this collateral agreement, induced by misrepresentation, the plaintiff was led to buy a machine. That is a view of the law that did not commend itself to Mr. Justice Ridley, but then Mr. Justice Ridley is not a very high authority on points of law.

MR. COMMISSIONER HORACE AVORY AGAIN.

Complaints continue to reach us about the inequality of the sentences passed by Mr. Horace Avory at the Manchester Assizes, which, in the words of a correspondent, are "occasioning a considerable amount of talk in the district." Happily, Mr. Avory is not yet a Judge.

WITHHOLDING NAMES FROM JURIES.

We observe that in the course of the trial Rex *v.* Crosland, the prosecution was allowed to write down the name of a person, and that the paper was handed to the judge, but its contents withheld from the jury. When is this monstrous practice to cease? If it were desirable that the judge should know the name, it was equally desirable for the jury to know it. Why are jurymen so complacent when they are flouted in this way?

LEGAL ANSWERS.

[Only questions of general interest will be answered in this column, and under no circumstances can replies be sent by post.]

Agreement as to Employment.—Johnbullite (Dudley).—The agreement, as far as we can see, was personal to the original employer, and cannot be enforced by a different firm with whom the employer has amalgamated. We think that you can safely ignore it.

Debtor in Canada.—Macleod.—You can instruct a solicitor here to take proceedings in Canada to recover the debt on the promissory note. It would be done through an agent in Canada.

Partnership Deed.—G. C. (Earlsfield).—The house agent is liable to severe penalties for drawing up a deed of partnership and charging fees for it. You should communicate with the Law Society, Chancery Lane, E.C., who will possibly take proceedings against him.

Railway Fares.—/.2.1.—A ticket issued subject to express conditions as an excursion ticket cannot be used except in the way specified in the conditions, and the company are entitled to recover the full ordinary fare if the passenger travels by any train which is not in accordance with the terms specified.

Deed of Gift.—Claimant.—There is no place where such deeds are registered and there is no need to register them. If the wife had a share in the business the firm would be able to give particulars of it.

Insurable Interest.—A. S. T. (Knap Hill).—We doubt if, under the circumstances, the wife has any insurable interest in the lives mentioned, and the company might refuse to pay. The policy ought to have been taken out in each case by the person insured and assigned to the wife.

Libel Action.—W. F. (Bristol).—Your only course is to defend the action, and if you do this and have a good case any solicitor would do it for you. You acted very unwisely in apologising, but will now have to repudiate the letters, as having been extorted from you.

Sale of Goods.—P. L. (Manchester).—A shopkeeper can refuse to do business at all, and is not bound to sell to any would-be purchaser.

Trusteeship.—A. R. (Wallsend).—The trustee can resign by sending his resignation to the person (if any) appointed under the deed to receive it, and if there is no such provision he should notify it to his co-trustees.

Lunatic Abroad.—W. P. (Neath).—Your best course is to get the friend to look after the woman and take legal steps to protect her property. She could not be sent here until she recovered.

Compensation for Accident.—H. D. (Battersea).—We fear that you cannot do anything to have the case re-opened now.

Tenancy of House.—Thunder.—The man became a yearly tenant after the expiration of the three years unless he arranged to be a weekly one, and you can insist on his paying a year's rent.

Tenancy of Shop.—Nero (Fulham).—You appear to be a monthly tenant, and can leave on giving a month's notice.

Request to Wife.—A Bullite (Kensal Rise).—You should make a will leaving the property to some persons as trustees with directions to buy your widow a terminable annuity or a life annuity. Inquire of some good insurance offices whether they could arrange it for you.

Hire Purchase.—F. B. (Lee).—You cannot do anything further in the matter.

Sale of Goods.—G. T. (Manchester).—When the invoice was sent the property in the goods passed to the purchaser, and you can sue him for the amount due. He has no right to repudiate the sale.

Wrongful Dismissal.—Anxious (Notts).—If an appeal is entered you have no alternative but to defend. We cannot advise you to bring any action. You seem to have a good case, and ought to win.

License for Manservant.—Precedent.—If you employ a boy instead of a female as a domestic servant you must take out a license.

Roller Skating on Footways.—Leigh-on-Sea.—There is no statutory prohibition of roller skating on a footway, and we see no legal reason why a person should not propel himself in that way.

Bill of Sale.—C. S. M. (Islington).—You are entitled to remove everything not comprised in the bill of sale.

Alimony.—Valentine.—The husband may be ordered by the Court to allow his wife alimony as long as he lives.

Illegitimate Child.—Maternity.—The child, if born out of wedlock, cannot claim relationship with anyone but its mother.

Breach of Promise.—White Heather.—We see no reason why the agreement should not be fulfilled, and the plaintiff should commence proceedings for recovery of the balance remaining unpaid.

Marriage Validity.—In a Knot.—The marriage is valid and cannot be annulled. A divorce can only be obtained if one of the parties commits a matrimonial offence. A petition must be presented to the High Court. The cost would not be less than £20 if undefended.

Gas Meter Damage.—Syntax.—We are inclined to think that the company is liable for the damage unless it notified the fact that the meter was full of gas. Your best course is to hold them responsible, as you cannot make the lodger liable.

Cinematograph Act.—C. C. (Aldershot).—The Act can be obtained for 2d. from Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C.

Money Lending.—R. C. (Barry Dock).—The document need not be signed at the office in either case. We do not know what the letters you mention refer to.

Betting on Credit.—Football (Glasgow).—It is illegal to keep any office or place in Scotland for the purpose of betting, and it does not alter the case if the betting is on credit. It is betting all the same.

Divorce.—Apprehensive.—If the woman divorces the man he will be ordered to pay her alimony, and he need not divide his property with his wife. He can dispose of it as he thinks fit. If the wife gets a share of his property by agreement, he should give her a life interest in it and settle it on his children to prevent it going to her husband if she marries again.

Loan.—Meat.—Your best course is to give the moneylender notice that you will contest the claim and apply to the Court to set aside the security. He will probably then settle with you. It is possible that the transaction was void. You do not say whether it was wholly carried out elsewhere than at the registered office of the lender.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

Brilliant Prospects of British New Guinea.

British New Guinea, hitherto known as the territory of Papua, has been practically closed hitherto to the influences of civilisation, but there can be no doubt that remarkable wealth, both vegetable and agricultural, and more particularly mineral, awaits those who are now about to open up this country, and who have been instrumental in establishing the British New Guinea Development Company, Limited, which will shortly be floated, and the prospectus of which will probably be issued next week.

New Guinea has hitherto practically been *terra incognita*, and its development under European auspices is making really world history. It is very satisfactory, therefore, to find that the issue is made under the highest auspices, and that amongst the guarantors who have subscribed the capital of the vendor company, and who have personally guaranteed the subscription of over one-half of the issue, are leading public men, representing what is best in the banking and mercantile world, especially of Australasia. Amongst these we find the Earl of Ranfurly, formerly Governor of New Zealand, Viscount Esher, Sir Westbrook Perceval, director of the Union Bank of Australia, Mr. W. A. Horne, director of the Bank of Adelaide, Sir Martin Conway, Sir Charles Euan Smith, Mr. Benjamin Newgass, etc.

The capital of the British New Guinea Development Company has been fixed at £1,500,000, divided into One million Seven per Cent. Participating Preference Shares of £1 each, and 500,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which the immediate issue will be one of 500,000 Seven per Cent. Participating Shares of £1 each at par, and this is being made simultaneously in Great Britain, on the Continent, and in Australasia. According to the prospectus, the new territory was thrown open by the Commonwealth Government of Australia for settlement in 1905, and as a result large areas of land have been selected for the cultivation of tropical produce, etc.; but what was still required was the assistance of a strong financial company with ample capital and strong initiative, both of which are now about to be provided.

The Company acquires a large territory, and will undertake to promote the cultivation of tropical produce on a large scale, and generally to develop the resources of the Company, by the construction of light railways, roads, harbours, etc. The Rona Falls, on the Laloki River, are to be utilised for industrial purposes. Very useful information has been collected by various expeditions, of which one has recently returned, confirming all the favourable points which had been ascertained. The territory is already sufficiently policed and protected by the Commonwealth Government, and the climate, with reasonable precautions, is not unhealthy for Europeans. The best expert advice was engaged both in Australia and Papua, and all their conclusions are promising in the highest degree. Amongst others the Company purchases provisional Crown leases of 112,000 acres, in various parts of the territory, and here it is important to state that the cheapness of labour is expected to prove a most important factor in the success of the Company's enterprise.

In an estimate of the profits furnished by Mr. Charles A. Darling, who is to be the manager of the new Company in Papua, and which is based upon figures given in numerous experts' reports which accompany the prospectus, it is calculated that within a year from planting a profit of £60,000 per annum can be earned from the cultivation of tropical products alone, and that in a fraction of the area proposed to be acquired, gradually increasing to £250,000 in the sixth year. A further source of profit mentioned is an agreement with an allied company known as the Papuan Minerals Exploration Company, Limited, which provides that 20 per cent. of the net profits of such company shall be payable to the British New Guinea Company, Limited.

Papua possesses wealthy indigenous plants of commercial value difficult to equal in any other country, including sago, sugar cane, rubber, cocoanut, nutmegs, tobacco, ginger, areca palms, fibres, bananas, etc. Timber promises to be a useful source of revenue to the Company, as large areas are very heavily timbered, and, according to Mr. Darling's report, the timber is exceedingly valuable, and consists of many varieties of hard and soft woods. Waterways are numerous. and there is ample water power for driving machinery. Papua is well situated for cotton growing, samples grown on the Laloki lands in Papua being reported upon as of most excellent quality. Papua is also the native home of the sugar cane, which is to be largely cultivated, and what is very important at the present time of exceptional demand for rubber, this is indigenous to Papua. In addition to the native supply obtained from rubber-yielding vines which entwine the large forest trees, considerable areas in Papua have recently been planted with Para rubber trees, and it is claimed that a more rapid growth is being obtained than in any other country. The directors, therefore, very properly anticipate a large revenue from this source. According to estimates given in the prospectus, the probable profits of the Company from agriculture will at once reach, as stated above, £60,000, rising gradually in the third year after planting to £200,000, and in the sixth year to £250,000, afterwards increasing by a minimum of £50,000 per annum.

It is also believed that the mineral wealth of Papua in gold, silver, copper, and other metals is considerable. This proportion of the Territory's resources is, however, to be developed by the Papua Minerals Exploration, Limited, to which certain rights have been transferred, in consideration of which 20 per cent. of the nett profits available for distribution will be payable to the Vendor Company. There is little doubt but that these mineral riches will prove of the utmost importance.

According to reports made by Mr. Charles A. Darling, there are two different Belts, the Dry and Wet Belts, the rainfall in the former being confined to 30 or 40 inches per annum, and reaching in the latter 100 to 150 inches per annum, but for the cultivation of tropical agriculture climatic conditions in both are highly favourable. There are in existence already several Sisal Hemp Plantations, and Mr. Darling saw cotton and tobacco growing. The Wet Belt is heavily timbered, and the soil is of a very rich chocolate loam variety, the timber on these lands being exceedingly valuable. In addition to sugar and copra, Mr. Darling inspected areas of about 100 acres planted with Para rubber trees, a number of them five and a-half years' old and of 30 inches circumference, equal to seven years' growth in Ceylon.

Labour is plentiful, and it is reckoned that 500,000 natives are resident in the country, who are born agriculturalists, and take very kindly to plantation work. Railways are, of course, to be constructed, which will meet with no engineering difficulties. The Rona Falls can be used for electric power and lighting, and it is estimated that somewhere between 40,000 and 50,000 h.p. can be developed from these Falls. When it is, moreover, considered that the Government will give its best support to the Companies now being formed to develop this huge territory, it may be assumed that these new flotations start under most favourable auspices, and have excellent prospects of early and important success.

IS FRESH AIR A SUPERSTITION?

By Irene Miller.

A startling fact has just been made public by the Parks Committee of the London County Council. Despite their lives in the open-air, the Park-keepers are subject to consumption in far greater proportion than are men employed in other departments which, according to the fresh-air enthusiast, might be supposed to be far less healthy. The sewer-men, even, have a better record! Not venturing to question the fashionable fad of the hour in favour of fresh air, or to suggest that prolonged exposure to the damps and fogs of open-air London may be really more injurious than "protected closeness," the Committee fall back upon a disquieting supposition: that "perhaps" it is because our Parks are resorted to so much by consumptives, that "the lungs of London" have become regular hot-beds of disease.

The Fresh Air Cure.

But then what of the theory that fresh air is enough to slaughter the horrid little microbes of consumption? This is the idea on which patients are made to pass days and nights on balconies, sleeping protected only by waterproof coverlets and a small pent-house for the face, so that in the winter-time they know what it is to wake up and find themselves beneath such a heavy covering of snow that they cannot turn in their beds beneath its weight. Yet there is not a shadow of doubt but that under this sort of treatment hundreds and thousands of young men and women have verily shaken themselves free from the "white plague of England." Their fever and all their other distressing symptoms have gradually abated, so that consumption is no longer considered an incurable disease.

Draughts.

But it must not be forgotten that any popular belief, based on the experience of ages, often turns out to be fundamentally true, and think how the ill-clad, poorly-fed populace dreads the twentieth-century doctor's fetish—fresh air! All kinds of wondrous up-to-date systems of ventilation are, by common consent, voted too chilly, and stuffed-up or otherwise thwarted, if possible. It was considered by the working-man to be quite a triumph when he got the outside seats of the County Council trams covered over. Of course, even doctors must admit that there is a world of difference between fresh air and draughts; and in trams, trains and small rooms it is difficult to get one without the other. But how eloquently do the cheeks and lips of our peasants, ruddy as cherries, speak in favour of the pure air of the country, when compared with the unhealthy aspect of pale-faced Londoners in their crowded, stifling streets.

On the other hand, Arctic explorers find that life itself depends upon their sacrificing a constant supply of fresh air, in favour of warmth. Three or four men sleep together, shut up, heads and all, inside a wide sack! Hearty, healthy sailors, too, pass their nights in the stuffiest of forecastles, though, of course, they are all day amid the freshest of ozone-laden breezes. And Sir E. Shackleton tells us that the only time his men indulged in colds in the head was when a bale of garments that had been packed up in London was first opened; out sprang the microbes! Many a seaman, likewise, will assure you that he never gets a cold afloat; that is one of the treats of "liberty week" ashore.

Rays of Sunlight.

There seem such contradictory facts in all this, that one is led to wonder if there really is any value in the damp chills and currents of air to which consumptive patients are exposed, and whether the benefit does not really come from their receiving all day long the invigorating rays of sunlight, which are, to some extent, pouring down on the earth all the time the sun is overhead, even though largely concealed by our brumous atmosphere. It is an old tradition that it is the influence of these precious rays that have the power to cure, as is shown by an old Eastern legend. It was recorded that Aaron wore a marvellous jewel in his breast-plate when he offered sacrifice. This stone had the power to remedy the ailments of all who gazed on it. When he died, none else being deemed worthy to wear it, the health-giving gem was set into the centre of the sun in heaven. So perhaps the atmosphere has been given credit as a "death to microbes" force, when really that honour belongs only to the glorious sun.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

The Cuirass Belt.

It is always a joy to a nation of coat-and-skirt wearers like ours to hear of some new kind of thing to wear under the coat, for the everlasting silk blouse has fairly gone threadbare. In this respect the new cuirass belt is a welcome diversion indeed, and will, I think, be hailed with even more joy than the "Princess" short slip and Russian coat, though that combination is useful in the cold days. The cuirass belt is more than a belt really, it is almost like a corselet of embroidery from the waist to the bust line, where it is prettily curved to the lines of the figure. Some of the prettiest designs have a long stole end falling down the front of the skirt, some have these both front and back, while the most graceful variation of all, to my mind, is the closely-fitting corselet extending below the waistline on to the hips and terminating in a silk girdle tied in front after the old Saxon model. These belts, so called, should match the cloth skirt in colour, and should be worn over a very tightly-fitting, long-sleeved blouse, also of the same colour. If different shades are indulged in the effect will be patchy at once. The belts are made of silk braids, galons, worked cords, soutache, or, if worn over soft silk frocks, of dim metallic tinted embroideries. They certainly make the indoor part of a very ordinary coat and skirt more dressy than our old friend the blouse, and should come in handy during the early spring.

Home Trimmed Hats.

The word Spring reminds me of the flower-trimmed hats which the milliners are trying to push forward early this year, and also of a very excellent hat-rest for home hat-trimming which a reader has sent for my inspection. Most of us know the misery of trying to poise light sprays of flowers and foliage on to a hat that continually tumbles about on one's knee or "wobbles" on a table and gets itself crushed before it is worn; and my reader is to be congratulated for coming to the rescue with a neatly made sort of bracket arrangement, that can be attached to a table, and upon which the wriggling hat rests securely. The whole thing is very light and ingenious, and is so made that at a touch the hat will spin round so that the home milliner can see her work from all points of view without altering her seat. I am asked for a few words of advice as to where best to push this article. I should certainly say in those journals which cater particularly for the suburbs and the country, where girls often have more time for trimming their own hats, and where good milliners (professional) are rare. The more domestic magazines would be suitable mediums, also some of the religious journals reach this class of reader. But I should advise a cheaper edition of the hat-rest in, say, wire and some light metal, instead of brass. Many home milliners would look twice at seven-and-sixpence, though I agree that the stand is well worth that. Both makes could be put on the market, however, and should be got out quickly in time for the coming bright days when every woman's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of hats. Such a commodity as this would allow even the most modestly equipped of us to have two or three spring-flowered hats in place of the usual rather expensive single one.

To-morrow on To-day.

When will it occur to the present generation, which so glibly calls gracious manners "Early Victorian," or morals "Mid Victorian," that it will itself one day be called "Early Edward"? How funny it will be when some future age, finding a loud-voiced, neurotic, dissatisfied, capricious, and extravagant woman among its products will "collect" her as "Early Edward"! We shall not be there to see, but I greatly fear that future plays and novels will put all highly emotional and "misunderstood" females forward as "Early Edward"; also all the wearying people who are dissatisfied with their unfortunate husbands, and all the yearning women with bony chins and "souls" who do things that the Library Committees don't approve of in order to "find themselves" (a reverse description might apply occasionally!). This is very hard on the rest of us, though. Think when our harmless portraits are viewed by a succeeding generation it will say wisely, "Yes, doesn't she look *intensely* Edward? Look at her neurotic eye, and her complex mouth! They were all alike. You can tell by the novels." We shall be accused of screaming forth our "complicated state of mind," as Gilbert says, exactly as we now accuse every pictured lady in a crinoline of fainting and sighing.

With reference to a paragraph in "World, Flesh and Devil" in our issue of February 5th, referring to the monstrous sentence of 12 months' hard labour passed on Frederick Joiner at the last Bucks Quarter Sessions, for annexing eleven tame pheasants, Messrs. Robert S. Wood and Co., solicitors, of High Wycombe, write to inform us that they appealed on Joiner's behalf (having acted for the defence) to the Court of Criminal Appeal against the conviction on the ground that there was no evidence that the pheasants were stolen property. The Appeal came on on Friday week, when the conviction was quashed, the Judges being of opinion that there was no case to go to the jury. We were delighted to know the issue of the appeal, but what if Joiner had been unable to obtain legal assistance and go to the Court?

PAID AWAY TO CLIENTS

(On Speculative Accounts only)

£331,920

(The Sign of the N. S. E. is the Size of the £. s. d.)

BY THE

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.

Readers will doubtless have noticed how the figures at the head of this column increase Week by Week. This huge sum represents the actual amount that has been paid away to Clients, and proves that

LARGE PROFITS HAVE BEEN MADE.

by following our advice each week, and testifies to the value of our Scientific System of Money Making.

The following are a few cheques that have recently been received by Clients:

A. D. T..	£330	4	4	F. J. B.	£24	0	0	Rev. J. C.	£34	0	0
G. H.	20	17	6	O. M. W.	108	3	3	J. T. D.	71	6	0
W. D.	40	11	0	W. A. H.	239	8	0	Col. R. H. F.	45	0	0
R. A. R.	45	7	6	G. S. B.	45	13	2	G. C.	32	18	9
G. C.	24	7	6	B. T.	27	0	0	J. A. B.	80	9	0
W. W.	40	0	0	A. B.	25	15	0	Mrs. J. S.	37	10	0
P. P.	36	0	0	Mrs. C. E. G.	36	0	0	G. W. E.	36	17	6
Mrs. H. C.	56	0	0	A. J. W.	35	0	0	Rev. W. R. P.	34	10	0
N. R.	23	0	0	E. A. C	50	0	0	G B	36	0	0
Capt. G. J. E.	20	2	6	G. H.	52	15	2	R. B.	120	0	0
G. T.	50	5	0	R. B.	30	0	0	Mrs. F. K. H.	58	6	3
Col. R. H. F.	58	10	0	B. T.	49	10	0	T. W. B.	109	5	8
H. H.	35	5	10	F. S.	42	0	0	H. C. W.	36	5	0
G. K. H.	59	0	0	G. T. C.	50	0	0	J. B. A.	70	7	6
F. D.	30	0	0	H. H. G.	35	0	0	Mrs H. O.	42	17	10
G. T. C.	£36	10	0								
W. J. W.	122	6	10								
W. F. W.	60	7	6								
W. T.	53	6	8								
J. A. B.	100	0	0								
Dr. F. W. B.	38	0	0								
C. G. C.	73	15	0								
Mrs. T.	36	2	11								
J. S. M.	65	15	0								
R. J. H.	66	15	0								
W. C.	92	18	2								
G. J. S.	32	5	0								
G. C. T.	91	5	0								
J. T. A. H.	142	10	0								
W. A. H.	155	13	1								

Last week we gave full details of

OUR RECORD FOR 1909,

which we claim is remarkable, and we defy any other firm to produce such eloquent testimony to the value of their system. We are, however, not satisfied to rest on our laurels—our Motto is "Excelsior!" Our aim is to still further improve on these figures this year, and we have every confidence in ourself that we shall do so, showing a still greater numb.r of

SUCCESSFUL CLIENTS

in the future than we have had in the past.

We invite you to make every enquiry into our Methods of Business. It is only necessary for you to fill up Coupon below and forward to us, when we will send you a Complete List of Cheques paid to Clients, the originals of which can be inspected at any time.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

TO THE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE, Great Winchester Street, London. E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques, totalling £331,920 which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.

J B. 1go.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

ADDRESS IN FULL.....

.....

Please Write Distinctly

DATE.....

THE ELECTION AFTERMATH.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS INSPIRED BY RECENT CORRESPONDENCE IN A DAILY PAPER

What will Mr. Asquith Do?

To the Editor of the Waily Blues.

Sir,—In reference to the correspondence now appearing in your columns under the heading, "What will Mr. Asquith do?" I cannot but feel that it is his bounden duty to Liberalism to pass immediately a short Act making it a criminal offence for any Tory to vote at all. Many an honest Liberal keeps from the polling booths because he feats to rub shoulders with a Tory voter. It must be done, or Liberalism is doomed.—Yours, etc., A. Bigott.

Sir,—Mr. Asquith must crush Toryism by every illegitimate means in his power. The vast Liberal majority at the elections has demanded it, and the righteousness of the cause would justify it.—Yours, etc., Ananias Smug.

Sir,—What an opportunity for Mr. Asquith! He must take advantage of it! Since 1906 the Tories have been intimidating the electors! I know of one case where the Tory squire, the Tory parson and the Tory brewer accompanied a poor old man to the polling booth with revolvers held at his head! I can prove it! And I will prove it! It shall be proved!

For myself I am sufficiently strong-minded not to be intimidated. I was called upon before the election by two ladies *wearing Tory rosettes!* When I saw them I rapped out the word "Scoundrels!" and banged the door in their faces! That is the way to treat intimidators, and would that there were more of my stamp to act in like manner.—Yours, etc., John Bragg.

Sir,—What Mr. Asquith will he do? First and frontmost he all foreigners from our Britain must exude. Of necessity it is paramount.—Yours, etc., Otto Schmidt.

Sir,—What will Mr. Asquith do? Nothing!—Yours, etc., A. Sinnick.

Our Weekly Ballot Scheme.

FOR FIFTY HELPERS FOR "JOHN BULL" AT TWO GUINEAS A WEEK EACH.

Readers are aware that, until the end of last year we were in the habit of balloting every week for 100 *readers of* John Bull *who, in return for a payment of a Guinea, would devote their spare time for one week to furthering the sale of this journal. These readers were selected in the following manner: Each copy of* John Bull, *as will be seen, contains on its cover a distinctive number, and every week one hundred of such numbers were drawn by the Publishers and published on page* iii *of our cover, and the holders of copies containing such numbers were requested to send us their names and addresses. We then invited them to sign a form agreeing to use their best endeavours in their available time, for one week, to push our sales, and upon being informed that they had done so we forwarded them a cheque for One Guinea each. It was necessary to go through this formality to avoid the law of Lotteries, and on the whole the scheme worked well—those who could not personally spare the time being invited to pass the work on to any deserving persons with whom they were acquainted, and to whom we made the payments instead.*

It was frequently represented to us, however, that the payment of One Guinea scarcely compensated for the trouble and time of distributing specimen copies, and otherwise complying with the terms of the arrangement, and in these circumstances we have varied the scheme by going back to what was the original number of canvassers, namely, fifty, and increasing the payment from One Guinea to Two Guineas.

The scheme, therefore, now is, that every week fifty numbers will be published, drawn from those appearing on the cover of each issue, and to each of the holders of a copy with one of such numbers we shall be prepared to make a payment of Two Guineas, in return for his or her services in pushing our sales for one week.

The fifty numbers drawn under this new scheme in respect of the issue dated February 5th will, as originally announced, be published in the issue dated March 5th (on sale March 3rd); those in respect of last week's issue in that dated March 12th, and those in respect of this week's issue in that dated March 19th—and all claims in respect of them must reach us within seven days from those dates.

The cypher "0" in front of a number may be disregarded, as it comes up automatically at regular intervals by the working of the numbering machine.

HOW A BOOK IS MADE

The making of a book, from printing the sheets to the final embellishments of the edges, is one of the most fascinating of manufacturing processes. In addition to the actual printing every well bound book goes through no less than eighteen separate processes. This fact makes clear to all what a wonderful bargain is THE MODERN CYCLOPEDIA published at only 6/- per volume. Not only does this remarkable reference book describe the manufacture of books, but also all other arts and crafts. It contains concise and tersely written articles on a remarkably wide range of subjects literary, historical, biographical, mercantile, political, geographical, technical, and scientific.

An Illustrated Folder Showing the Processes of Printing, Binding, and Finishing Books, and Full Particulars of "THE MODERN CYCLOPEDIA" will be sent to any reader of "JOHN BULL" on application.

THE GRESHAM PUBLISHING COMPANY,
135, Southampton Street, Strand, London, W.C.

YOUR OVERCOAT, LIKE CHARITY

may cover a multitude of faults. But everybody sees and notices your overcoat. The Achille Serre way of scientific dry-cleaning removes all spots and stains, freshens up the coat, and gives it a new lease of life.

Send your coat to us now, and within a few days it will be returned, looking almost as new, and ready for immediate wear.

Drop us a post card for our booklet "Clothes and the Man" and the address of our nearest branch or agency.

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GROWN BY THE KING AND LATE QUEEN 61 YEARS.
GUARANTEE YOU SATISFACTION AND SAVE YOU MONEY ON EVERY PURCHASE OF GARDEN SEEDS.
FREE BOOK of 163 pages tells all about them, gives pictures and full particulars. Write for your copy to-day.
TOOGOOD & SONS, The Kings Seed-Growers, **SOUTHAMPTON.**

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Will the new Cabinet hold together?
What will be the terms of the Government's "Labour" exchange?
Isn't it curious that the initials of Labour—Socialist—Democrat read L s. d.?
Do they call it the "Whiners' League" because the president comes from Wales?
Wouldn't cyclist cavalry constantly be forced to retyre?
Will M. Rostand get a nest-egg from "Chantecler"?
Did he cut the third act because there was too much cackle?
Is it true that a War Office contract is always called a "job"?
Is rifle-shooting to be taught at Eton to give the boys an aim in life?
Won't Bristol's refusal of one day's rest in seven make the police restless?
Doesn't the Premier want Protection—from his friends?

Poultry-farming, we are told, can be made to pay handsomely. At any rate, the investor gets a run for his money.

"The Great Gay Road" has just been published. Piccadilly?

The man who blacked the eyes of a political opponent during the election might have pleaded that he was merely trying to alter his views.

A billiard wrap for women has been brought out. But most women don't care a rap about billiards.

"The Brown Dog to Go," reads a headline. Will it be much cut up?

The thief who smashed a jeweller's window at Epping, and left a pick-axe behind, took another pick with him.

The Vicar of Yarmouth, who has made a net profit of £129 on his parish magazine during the past year, should have been a journalist.

Motor-car builders have had the greatest trouble in building a suitable hearse. We presume they couldn't get one to go slowly enough.

"Should a soldier salute more often?" asks the *Express*. No doubt, on the face of it.

A London woman has been cured of paralysis through seeing a mouse. It is generally the other way about.

"The world laughs at men of genius while they are alive," says James Douglas. But why is *he* worrying.

The institution of theatres on liners may enable even a poor play to enjoy a long run.

A man named Doo has been sentenced at the Old Bailey to 18 months' hard labour for bigamy. Mr. Doo is now sorry he did.

"Does Caning Hurt?" asks the *Star*. Personally, we think the average boy would choose some other form of amusement.

Mending and darning for bachelors is now done by "Busy Bees," in the Strand. We trust they may busy be.

The news that "elusive waists" are to be the fashion is rather alarming; the old style needed a lot of holding.

"Appendicitis has had its day," says the *Lancet*. Society won't suffer it any more.

A Dublin porter, accused in error of personating himself at the election, was awarded £10 compensation. Evidently he could take his own part.

A witness in the Official Referee's Court said he had to dismiss an employé because of his interest in politics during business hours. Were they on opposite sides, by the way?

It is proposed to give Peary the rank of Rear-Admiral. He will still be behind.

"Curate as Fireman," reads a heading. Quite right; it is the duty of the clergy to save from fire.

THE LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

A HIGH-HANDED ACTION.

One of the conductors employed by the London General Omnibus Company sends us the following:—

> May I be permitted to lay before you a London General Omnibus Company's method of treating their employees? On the Redcliffe Gardens, Fulham Road, to West Hampstead route, the conductors were advised on Friday, January 21st, that, commencing Sunday, January 30th, those being paid for "long days" would no longer continue to receive the extra 1s. for Sundays. This, no doubt, is in order, if not what might be termed fair, but the following is what I consider *not* in order. On January 28th, notice was given that this should have commenced a fortnight back, and that therefore, each man was to refund 2s. pay he had received. I believe several at first naturally refused, but knowing that this would end in their getting handed back their licenses, unwillingly gave in their 2s.

Will the directors kindly explain?

An Interesting Book on Health.

Sent Free for the Asking.

"John Bull" readers are advised to send at once for this interesting book, which deals with the problem of health—how it is lost and how regained—in a most intelligent manner. It is well worth two guineas to anyone who reads it, yet it does not cost a penny to secure it. It is sent free, postage prepaid, to all who write for it.

The sending of the book places you under no obligation whatever. You will feel better for reading it. It tells the story of hundreds of poor sufferers who have been restored to perfect health by the electric method. It tells that story in a plain, straightforward way, and it will go direct to the hearts of many ailing persons who have been doctoring and dosing themselves with medicine in a vain endeavour to get back their strength. The gladsome tidings that these messages convey cannot be too widely distributed.

Have you ever thought of the relation that electricity bears to the human body? Did you ever try to find the reason for your poor health? This book on curative electricity tells you of these things. It tells how to apply this wonderful force to the body so as to restore its nervous power—its vitality—and when your vitality is up to standard you are strangers to feebleness, pains, aches, and disease. The world looks bright to you—you are happy.

The pain in your back, the weakness of your stomach, your loss of appetite, the headaches, nervousness, dizziness, the dulness of mind, lack of energy and ambition, weariness are all symptoms of loss of nervous power; and all the scientific men tell us that nervous power is electricity, the force that is contained in the nerve cells. It is this power that runs the great force-pump of the system—the heart—also the stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels, and every organ of the body.

We will enumerate some cases that have come under our observation. In these cases electricity was only used as a last-resort treatment.

Case No. 1 is that of a woman suffering from severe pains Here is her report:—"I can do nothing but honestly recommend your battery. I am a new woman since. I have never a pang of pain in my side. That is gone, thanks to your battery. I thank you for all the trouble you have taken with me." The patient is Mrs. Jas. Hay, 26, George Street, Broadsea, Fraserburgh.

Case No. 2 is that of a man cured of Bronchitis and Rheumatism. He writes:—"I am still freed from Bronchitis and Rheumatism. The results of the battery are permanent. It is a good 'pick me up.' I can still endorse all the statements in my report of October 19th, 1906, and I now feel younger and brighter, and am quite full of vigour and go." Mr. Jas. Foxley, 24, Selborne Street, Liverpool.

Case No. 3 proves that the cure is permanent. The patient's own words describe it:—"I am pleased to say that the 'Ajax' Battery has given me new life and strength. I haven't had occasion to use it for more than a year, which I think is conclusive proof of the benefit received." Mr. Robt. Hilton, 14, Manor Road, Leytonstone.

These are cures by the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery This is the newest electrical invention for curative purposes, It generates its own power, and can be regulated by the wearer to any degree desired. There is no bother of charging or preparing the battery. It is always ready, and can be used at a moment's notice.

This battery has been used by many medical men. Lady Mansfield's physician prescribed it, and it cured her. It is endorsed by "Science Siftings," and supported by the "Certificate of Merit." The editor of "John Bull" endorses it and recommends it. The "Ajax" Battery was given the diploma for Grand Prix with Gold Medal by the special medical section of the International Exhibition.

A postcard or a letter sent to The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., will bring the book to you at once. Do not delay, as it may be of vital importance to you. If near enough to call, a free test of the wonderful curative powers of electricity will be given you.

—[ADVT.]

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

D. W. G. (Sydenham) wants football competitions to be legalised in this country, as he considers them a harmless pastime. It certainly seems a pity that so much money should be allowed to go to Holland, though the firms out there are probably English ones for the most part.

G. W. B. (Ilford).—We certainly hesitate to believe that German workmen contributed so large a sum as £861,580 as a free gift to Swedish strikers. Why not ask the *Daily Chronicle* for its authority?

P. D. S. (Glasgow).—We do not quite understand your grievance. Why can't you provide the references required by the Board of Trade?

J. G. D. (London, N.E.).—Very sorry; but if we answered everybody we should have no space for articles or advertisements.

"RED CROSS" (Bournemouth).—Your solutions certainly seem quite clever, but we cannot undertake to adjudicate in other papers' competitions. If you are not satisfied, better leave them alone and devote your shillings to beer or charity.

V. W. (Seaforth) would like to horse-whip the "cruel, callous brutes" who take part in stag-hunting.

"REVEL" (Glasgow).—Certainly, we are glad to welcome the youngsters as members of the League.

A. P. (Toronto) has been refused at least a dozen situations on the ground that he is an Englishman. He has been informed that if he had been Scotch or Irish, things would have been different. He really must cultivate a brogue.

T. W. (Yaxley) is not a Killjoy and he quite approves of schoolboys playing football, but he thinks the present craze for professional football is being carried too far.

E. G. (Maldon).—We know nothing about the opera glasses offered by the Optical Supply Co. (Lambert Chambers, Acre Lane, S.W.).

"MOTORITE" (Camberwell) advertised for a place as chauffeur and received a request for a fee from Morgan's Employment Agency, 53, Old London Road, Hastings. Well?

C. F. (Manchester).—It certainly was rash of you to send five guineas to a matrimonial bureau without making careful enquiries.

B. C. (Anerley) says our picture of the South Pole is very much like the North Pole. He says that all churches are built in honour of the sun. Surely not in this country!

"A BORN FOOL HOPELESS" (Manchester) enquires about the Albert Edward Tailoring Co. (27, Waterbank, Stockport). He paid them a deposit of 7s. and then found they had removed to Bolton.

H. B. (Barking).—We should not advise you to send money to the Collins Syndicate (26, Bishops Road, Fulham) for turf and roulette systems. For one thing, they are very expensive.

J. C. (Carlisle).—The promoters of political meetings naturally exclude opponents if there is a probability of a disturbance.

V. A. (Sidcup) complains of a slot machine at Cannon Street Station and says that very few people notice the instructions in small print:—"Pull out knob before inserting penny."

B. McB. (Willesden Junction) evidently imagines that the "Endless Prayer Chain" is run by the Postmaster-General for the purpose of increasing the revenue.

F. J. (Bristol) enquires whether Keir Hardie returned the £100 sent to him by Mr. Carnegie. We hope not.

M. R. (Shirebrook) informs us that the following resolution has been passed by the managers of the Nottingham Workhouse: "Ordered that eight dozen Moody and Sankey hymn-books be obtained for the male and female imbecile wards." We hope they will benefit.

J. M. (Llanrwst).—Sorry we are too busy to hunt up things which you could find for yourself in any almanac. We only answer questions of general interest.

"CHRISTIAN" (London, S.E.) complains of the sweating of dressmakers' assistants. He says it is very general among West End high-class businesses.

"FAIRPLAY" (Lower Thames Street) and others, take exception to our recent Telegram to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, asking whether he knew anything about the alleged interview which appeared in the *Morning Post*. For the life of us we cannot see what wrong we have done. The suggestion was that, as in the case of those numerous election letters, someone was taking the right hon. gentleman's name in vain—not, of course, that we insinuated that a journal of the standing of the *Morning Post* would knowingly do so.

Will you accept this Bottle of Guy's Tonic? We Send it Free!

Guy's Tonic creates Appetite, aids Digestion, corrects Flatulence, prevents Constipation, removes Pain, cures Indigestion and Debility—absolutely. Guy's Tonic is pleasant to take, and is a British Preparation, being, in fact, the most largely sold Tonic-Digestive Medicine in the World.

Note: A Free Guy's Tonic Health-Help Outfit will be forwarded privately, packed and carriage paid, to every Sufferer who makes use of the Coupon, as directed below.

Flatulent Indigestion.

"The pleasure and relief I feel are "more than I can find words to "express."

Miss M. Binns, of Fourth Avenue, Manor Park, writes—

"I am glad to tell you Guy's Tonic "has been of wonderful benefit to me. The "pleasure and relief I feel are more than I can "find words to express. There is no breathlessness now, even when going out after a "meal. My appetite, which for weeks past "has been so fitful and uncertain, has come "back splendidly. For a long time, too, I "have been scarcely able to stand upright, "pains all over the back and in the shoulders, "with Flatulence. I was quite unable to "carry a chair across the room. I am thankful to say I have now lost all that, and am "eating well. I feel that I want every "sufferer from this cruel complaint, Flatulent Indigestion, to know of Guy's Tonic."

Write at once if you are troubled with any of the following forms of Ill Health.

Indigestion.	Sick Headache.
Flatulence.	Want of Energy.
Coated Tongue.	Backache.
Poor Appetite.	Weak Kidneys.
Pain after Food.	Anæmia.
Neuralgia.	Rheumatism.
Palpitation.	Nerve Weakness.
Constipation.	Depression.
Biliousness.	Debility.

Contents of the Free Outfit.

(1.) A Bottle of the World-famed Guy's Tonic.

(2.) A supply of Guy's Fruit Pills for the cure of Constipation.

(3.) A personal Letter of Instruction regarding the complete Guy's Tonic Treatment.

(4.) Two Health Educational Booklets.

Post this Coupon

FREE

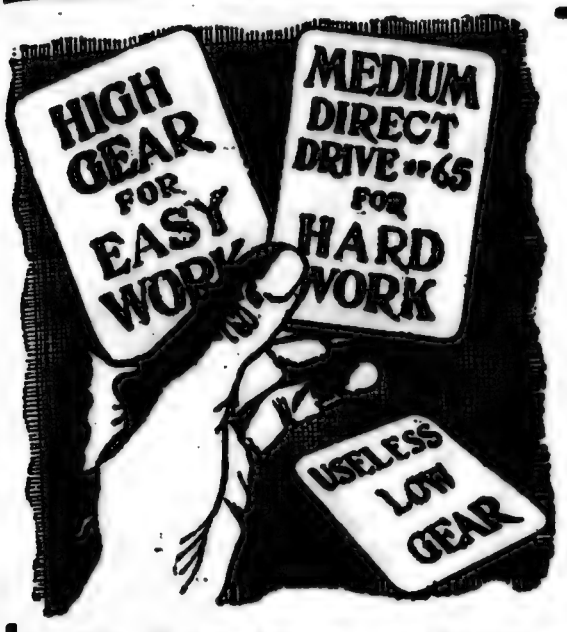
Name .....

Address .....

10 .....

desires the Free Guy's Tonic Outfit as offered in "John Bull."

Post Coupon, when filled in, to Guy's Tonic Company, 12, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W. Kindly include Three Penny Stamps, to defray actual cost of postage of the Free Outfit.



THE SECRET OF CYCLE SPEED GEARS

By Experience we learn to keep the Good and discard the Useless.

Gears with Three Speeds are being succeeded by the Villiers Two Speed—the Three Speed *without the Low Gear.*

This gives all the advantages with less than half the complications, and consequently half the Friction.

The Villiers is now fitted to existing Bicycles for One Guinea—*it gives old Cycles up-to-date advantages.*

List free from The Villiers Gear Co., Blakenhall, Wolverhampton (in writing mention name of your local repairer).

FOR MEN OF TASTE

Pyramid Handkerchiefs strike a new note in men's wear—a note of refinement, originality and colour appreciated by all critical tastes. Also in plain white. Ask any high-class outfitter to show you "Pyramids"—4/3 the half-dozen. You'll be delighted with them.

OUR GUARANTEE

Every coloured Pyramid Handkerchief is guaranteed indelible colours, superior quality and perfect make. If found otherwise, you can obtain free replacement or your money back in full.

If your outfitter hasn't Pyramid Handkerchiefs, send his address to "Pyramid," 132, Cheapside, London, proprietors Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co., Ltd., and they will see that you are supplied at once.

Linene Handkerchiefs for Women of Quality

Warning: Every genuine "Pyramid" bears "Pyramid" Label.

PYRAMID HANDKERCHIEFS

REGISTERED. 2

WHY HAIR TURNS GREY

When a person has grey hair before becoming fifty years old, everybody thinks this is a sign of mental decay. This is a great mistake, and very unjust to those who are afflicted. The reason is due to a slight disorder in the pigmentary glands of the scalp, sometimes caused by a shock or nervousness, and more often due to neglect of the hair.

But every person whose hair is turning or who is already grey, may now rejoice, for there has been discovered a perfect remedy. It is not one of those cheap and nasty dyes or stains, but it is a preparation which feeds and invigorates the pigmentary glands, causing renewed life and a return of the natural colour. It is perfectly harmless, its use cannot be detected, and the hair gradually darkens until it reaches the shade of the days of youth. It is equally good for men and women, and if any reader of this paper would like to try a bottle I will hand same to him or her free, with my compliments, at my office, or will send in plain sealed wrapper, if three penny stamps are enclosed for posting.—Prof. PAUL LIND (Dept. 114 C), 54, Duke Street, Mayfair, London (two doors from Oxford Street).

ASTHMA.

A new remedy is offered on trial for three weeks. Nothing to be taken internally, nothing to be burned. It can be carried in the pocket, and is always ready for use. Permanent relief and cure. Recommended by Doctors.

Apply for illustrated booklet (136 pages) to:—
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A written promise to pay only necessary. Without Sureties or Security.
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WILLIAM STANLEY & CO. 271 & 273, Oxford Street, London, W.
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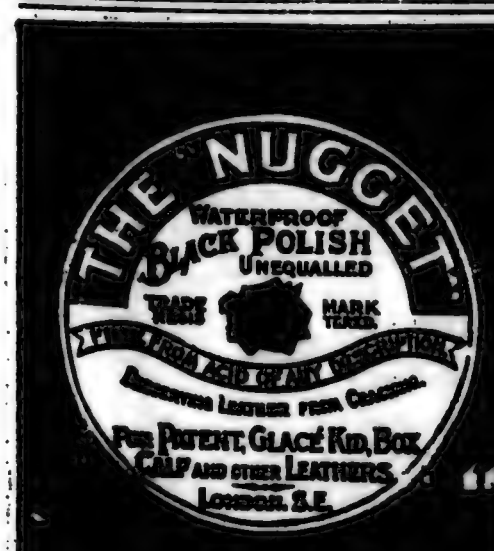
399, STRAND.

The Paradise of all good gourmets.



USE "NUGGET"

POLISHES BLACK and BROWN

"DOUBLE the LIFE of your BOOTS"

Apropos our appreciation of Sir John Barker as "a good business man," certain members of his staff complain that the terms of their employment are harsh. Oh, dear, we are always getting into trouble!

"Rector" (Nore) refers to our cartoon about the lean curate and the fat rector, and points out that nowadays curates obtain from £150 to £200 per annum while the average value of livings is not more than £200 or £300 with numberless outgoings, calls, and responsibility from which the curates are exempt. We live and learn.

J. F. J. (London), who is a Licensed Victualler, complains that the Gas Company sends round requiring explanation as to why he is burning less gas than in the corresponding quarter of last year, and wants to know whether he would be justified in sending round to his customers asking why they are drinking less beer. Why not try the experiment?

M. A. (Nuthurst) and others.—All the then outstanding successful numbers were announced in the issue dated January 1st.

H. T. (Birmingham) who is an official of long standing of the Birmingham and District Anglers' Benevolent Society, takes exception to certain statements in the letter which we recently published from a correspondent who attended one of the recent contests and complained of the inconvenience caused by the working of the Children Act. H. T.'s corrections, however, are upon minor points, and he is equally emphatic in condemnation of the Act.

A Wail from Barry.—A member of the Barry Chamber of Trade writes to us to protest against the description of the railway station accommodation published as from a Barry correspondent in our issue of February 5th. A member of the Barry Chamber of Trade assures us that our earlier correspondent greatly exaggerated the deficiences of the station and its approach.

The Secretary of the Society of Sea-Going Stewards (South Castle Street, Liverpool) sends us the prospectus of Mr. H. B. Edwards, 9, Latham Terrace, Chiswick, whom he describes as "one of the oldest offenders" who prey upon the unwary.

W. S. (Halton) wants to know if it is true that Mr. Cameron Corbett, of Glasgow, has an estate containing thirty thousand inhabitants and no public houses. We hope not.

J. H. (Southampton) complains of the treatment of stewards by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., who pay £2 10s. a month in addition to 10s. a month livery money. Our correspondent sends us a list of his outfit which came to £3 5s. 6d.

H. E. (Leamington).—We hesitate to pronounce upon the intricate question of the warranty of a watch.

"Observer" suggests that no working-man should vote for the members who succeeded in obtaining a report in favour of the continuance of imprisonment for debt. We wish he had written a little sooner.

P. B. (Stockport) thinks we should have more information as to where to mobilise in case of invasion. He should ask Blatchford.

A. B. (London, S.W.).—We are sorry to hear you have been so unfortunate with your lodgings. You must really follow the example of your landlady and keep a cat if the mice are troublesome.

P. B. (Stockport) wants to know what would happen to the Two-Power Standard if Japan suddenly raided India and we had to send out our fleets to the Far East. What, indeed!

J. H. (Camberwell).—We agree that many popular papers give illiterate awards in their competitions. The remedy is not to compete. Then the competitions would soon die a natural death.

J. A. O. (Homerton) has invented a vegetable compound by which persons in desert regions would be saved from dying of hunger and thirst, 2 oz. being sufficient to last twenty-four hours, and 2 lbs. to sustain a person, totally destitute of every sort of nourishment, for two weeks. We will call upon him before we next start for the Sahara.

W. B. P. (London, N.W.) wants to know where he can obtain employment to address envelopes at home. He must be wary of offers.

E. C. (Walsall) wants to know whether Turkey is a Free Trade country. There is an ad valorem duty which the Government is not allowed to increase without the consent of the Powers.

"Protection" (Newcastle) wants us to impress upon the people that England is in danger and on the verge of downfall owing to the menace of Germany. But Blatchford has done that.

F. R. L. (who has not the courage to send us his name or address) writes that the English nation are "really the scum of the earth, the world's riff raff." He says: "No Englishman ever did a brave deed in war or invented anything worth mentioning. No Englishman can ever conduct himself like a gentleman however hard he tries." Again: "English have no brains. You could never learn French so well as I have learned English." As evidence of the excellence of his English we may mention that he calls the Germans "poor swines." He had better go home and eat frogs.

"Cymro" (Bridgrwd) wants to know whether the Government have inspectors for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The answer is in the negative.

H. J. B. (Arundel) asks whether rye bread is eaten in England. Not yet.

C. B. (Sheffield) wanted to get one of our winning numbers in order to start as a dispenser, being skilled in the use of herbs. Perhaps it was as well he had no luck.

(*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*)

BOGUS OR GENUINE HIGH-GRADE CYCLES?

The Sunbeam is built regardless of cost in a Factory from which common work is rigorously excluded. So this Cycle and its Little Oil Bath Gear Case have become a standard for High-grade buyers.

That is why Makers of low-grade Cycles often stick a Metal Case on to one of their cheap machines, and having doubled its List Price, call it their "High Grade" Model. The Agent is next tempted by an enormous Profit to push this Imitation off upon bona-fide enquirers after Sunbeams. When he succeeds, the third stage in the history of the "Big Profit" bicycle is here illustrated.

The new 1910 Sunbeam Catalogue, sent free by post by J. Marston, Ltd.,—21, Sunbeamland,—Wolverhampton, shows that the Sunbeam is designed and built under different conditions to any other Bicycle in the World. There are no "Just as Goods"—they are not Possible.

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Cecil House (57a), Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

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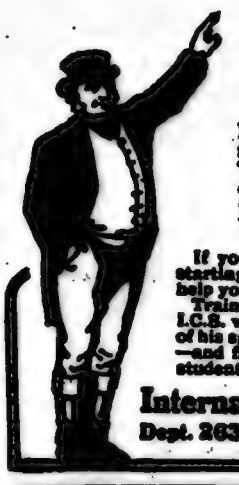
REMARKABLE TESTIMONY TO THE VALUE OF I.C.S. TRAINING



Dear Sirs, Wellington, New Zealand.

I arrived in Wellington, New Zealand, carrying with me a letter of introduction from the London Headquarters of the International Correspondence Schools (the I.C.S.) to your General Manager for Australasia, Mr. J. C. Smith. I was most cordially received, and promised every assistance towards getting a suitable job. That same afternoon Mr. Smith gave me a letter of introduction to the Officer in Charge of Wellington City Electrical Station, and I immediately secured a good position.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) B. WOOD CURRY.

If you are going abroad, get acquainted with the I.C.S. before starting. And if you are staying in the Old Country, the I.C.S. can help you just the same to secure a Better Position.

Trained men are badly needed in *all* John Bull's Islands. The I.C.S. will supply the needful training to anyone who will use some of his spare moments in his home. There's a Course for every case—and free service in employment. Let us refer you to successful students in your district. Write us to-day, stating your line of work.

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.
Dept. 263 K, International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C.

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But be sure to get it from GRIMSBY, the Premier Fishing Port.
Choice assorted Hampers containing—
6 lbs., 2s.; 9 lbs., 2s. 6d.; 11 lbs., 3s.; 21 lbs., 5s.
Cleaned and Carriage Paid. List and Parties are Free.
Send to the Pioneers of the industry for best quality and value.
Thousands of Delighted Customers.
LIVE FISH COMPANY, 19, Fish Docks Grimsby.

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SPRATT'S "MEAT FIBRINE OVALS"

Nothing to equal them in quality. You will be pleased with their appearance. Your dog will look for more.

ABOUT 240 TO THE LB.
SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Free Sample of SPRATT'S PATENT LIMITED,
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A Working Model Sent Free on Application if "John Bull" is Mentioned.

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RAZOR DE LUXE.

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The Blend that made us famous.

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do your utmost to save time by curtailing housework whenever possible. One of the easiest possible ways to save time and curtail housework is by covering the rooms with Li-nola. This floor covering—beautiful as an Oriental Rug—is a patented combination of our Original Cork Lino and an enchanting border. Li-nola enables you to save time and money because it can be cleaned without scrubbing. It is wonderful how quickly and thoroughly Li-nola can be cleaned, and when cleaned how long it keeps so. May we send you Design book and sample of quality post free; We sell Li-nola on Easy Terms, or allow 2s. in the £ discount for cash. We also pay carriage. Why not write to-night?

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without Operation, absolutely and permanently. Purely herbal. Thousands of testimonials. Booklet "Cancer and its Cure" sent free.—STROOPAL, 85, Windsor Lodge, Hartfield Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

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6D.

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PRINCESS HATZFELDT'S GIFT OF HOT AIR BATHS TO LONDON HOSPITAL.

NATIONAL SCHEME FOR HOT AIR BATHING IN EVERY HOME.

Enormous Health Advantages for All.

Princess Hatzfeldt having observed the wonderful health-giving effects of hot-air bathing, has generously given to The London Hospital an equipment whereby the Patients of the Institution will be able to benefit.

A national scheme to provide hot-air bathing for every home has now been arranged. This is rendered possible by reason of the invention of a form of hot-air bath which is inexpensive and in every way suited for home use.

A complete hot-air equipment for the home costs only a few shillings, while the cost of each head-to-foot bath therein works out at the ridiculously trivial amount of rather less than 1½d.

Full particulars, with explanatory drawings of the equipment in its few simple and yet highly efficient parts, may be obtained simply for writing by all readers of this paper. Just drop a postcard to the address given later in this article.

Think of it—a health-giving hot-air bath for 1½d.

Everyone who tries a hot-air bath will at once agree there is nothing to beat it.

—as a health tonic.

—as a Blood and Skin Purifier.

—as a Nerve Soother and Strengthener (strength can only follow rest).

—as a Simple, invincible means of relieving and curing Rheumatism and Gout.

—as a perfect way of obtaining super-cleanliness of the internal as well as the external body.

Space does not permit of the publication here to-day of the many truly remarkable instances of the value of hot-air bathing as now obtainable so cheaply and so efficiently by means of the Gem Hot-Air Bath. The Reports of many of the Public, however, will be sent with particulars of the Bath to every inquirer. The reading of these remarkable experiences of both male and female Members of the public cannot fail to serve as incontrovertible evidence of the health value of hot-air bathing.

Here are a few abbreviated examples of the good done by the Hot-Air Bath :—

1. One "Bath" will affect a cold as to cause it to disappear within 8 hours.

2. One "Bath" will reawaken a congested liver to healthy activity.

3. One "Bath" will allay the super-sensitiveness of a spell of nervousness.

4. On the other hand, one "Bath" is sufficient to so quicken the sluggish circulation present in "nervous depression," with accompanying symptom of low-level energies of mind and body. The nervous congestion (or indigestion) is the root cause of the trouble.

5. One "Bath" will instantly relieve the excruciating pain of Rheumatism, Sciatica, or Lumbago.

But the great advantage is that the Bath provides cheap and pleasant treatment which is always at hand for regular and continued use—the only possible treatment for chronic cases.

The ingenious form of the home hot-air bath will agreeably surprise the readers of this paper. Although it is big enough for a complete body bath, yet when not in use it occupies less room than a small trunk.

Although it does one as much good as a winter holiday in the South of France, or Italy, or Egypt, yet each use of the bath costs less than three-halfpence. Then this new Hot-Air Bath can be used by all the members of the family—cost 1½d each.

All this is so remarkable—so inviting—so well worth reading and knowing about, and the full particulars of the National scheme of a Hot-Air Bath for every Home have been printed for widespread distribution to the British Public. All that its Members have to do to learn how to enjoy the health advantages of hot-air Bathing at so small a cost is to send their names and addresses to the publishers, The Gem N Supplies Co., Ltd., 22, Peartree Street, Goswell Road, London, E.C. Why not send your name and address to-day—now? By return of post you will receive all the particulars in the form of an Illustrated Book of the Hot Air Bath of over 100 pages.

SPECIAL TRIAL OFFER TO READERS OF "JOHN BULL."

THE GEM N SUPPLIES CO., Ltd.,
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Enc'osed find Money Order valued 30s., for which send me one 30s. No. 1 Standard Bath Cabinet. This Money Order is sent on the understanding that I am at liberty to return the Cabinet within the next ten days and my money will be returned.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.)

"Ready-Made" Horses.

Mr. R. Tyler, whose successes for the past twelve months have been as phenomenal as they have been continuous, is putting several of his horses in training up for auction, and there will be keen competition to obtain such irresistible handicap animals as Newgrange, Simon Passe and others, at Sandown this week-end.

A Promised Bonne-Bouche.

Leinster is, if possible, to compete again in the Champion Steeplechase at Hurst Park, next month, the event attracting most of the best jumpers in training in the nomination stage. But the trouble is, that just as a race looks like providing a really sporting *bonne-bouche*, it fizzles out into two or three runners.

More Trainers than Owners.

H. D. Barnes, the popular Epsom trainer, who has not for some years been lucky enough to have a real chance by being given a horse worth calling a horse to train, has set up as a dealer, and I hope will do well, for what he does not know about horses cannot be learned. When he had anything in his care that could "go" in the least—such as Admiral Drake and Sir Dennis—he soon showed what he can do.

Prophetic.

Big sport, of course, at Newbury, but it will be the handicaps and sellings—not the two £500 races—which will attract the fields. In the first day's Spring Plate, BLIND HOOKEY, who is getting quite a lucky horse now, will start a raging favourite and must beat Mago Pico for the third time, but I believe

CARNEGIE

will beat him at even weights—it is time the once-great hurdle racer won something. The Hurst Park failure,

RATHVALE,

might "go" for the Hedlington Steeplechase, but the two miles is not far enough for him, whilst his name recalls

DOMINO,

who is a literal certainty for the Newbury Steeplechase. It will be a long shot, but WISE RIOT will be "there" for the Whatcombe Handicap, and another recent bogey,

LISTER

is to be followed in the Bracknell Hurdle Handicap at Windsor next Monday.

SEA HOLIDAYS.

Of late years there has been great development in what we may call pleasure cruising. Some of the great steamship companies have not disdained to cater for the wants of those who wish to spend a holiday on the sea in a safe and commodious steamer and at a reasonable charge. Amongst the companies which have developed this line of traffic most thoroughly is the Orient Steamship Company, which has arranged very inviting cruises to Norway, the Mediterranean ports, and elsewhere. The early spring is a season when it is a good thing to get away south in search of the sun, and the Orient Company are providing a very full programme of opportunities for doing this, which includes Spain, Morocco, Greece, Algiers, Turkey and Egypt. The ships told off for this work have every convenience and luxury, and the fares charged are, having regard to the accommodation offered, wonderfully moderate.

After Shaving.

ICILMA FLUOR CREAM is the only rational cream to use after shaving, because it is so soothing and comforting that it immediately removes any soreness and irritation which shaving is apt to cause. Used overnight, it makes the morning shave surprisingly easy.

Of all Chemists, 1/-. Send 2d. for sample to
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Icilma Fluor Cream.

Football Competitions. "WHO'S WHO."

Information about all firms conducting them. Valuable and essential to all Football Devotees. Details free.—E. FORBES-DENTON, 57, Myddleton Street, London, E.C.

CURED HIS RUPTURE.

NO FURTHER USE FOR TRUSSES.

Mr. Ralph Rawlinson, Woodacre Cottage, Barnacre, Garstang, suffered severely from Rupture, was soundly cured at the age of 60 years, and has no further use for trusses. This case is one of the many thousands who have entirely dispensed with a truss after using the Rice Method of curing Rupture. Rupture is more than an annoying trouble, it is a danger to your physical and sexual welfare. It has ruined the prospects of hundreds of men, women and children, and will sooner or later cause you serious trouble unless you have it cured. For the immediate relief of all ruptured people a sample treatment and complete detail will be sent free (sealed and post paid) to all who write at once. This is a thoroughly tried method that has cured every kind and condition of rupture in men, women and children, the labouring man as well as the gentleman of leisure, at home, without pain, danger, or loss of time and at a small cost. A cure will mean freedom from suffering and years of comfort added to the length of your life.

Mr. R. RAWLINSON.

We have just issued a very valuable treatise on Rupture, which will enable any sufferer to know as much about the true nature of Rupture as any Doctor. It also explains fully the process of cure, and will show you just what to do to be cured. We want to place a copy in the hands of every ruptured person, for the great benefit we know it will be to them. Do not fail to write at once for the sample treatment and this valuable book, and learn all about this Godsend to the Ruptured. Tell your friends about it also, that they, too, may send for a copy. Address WM. S. RICE, Ltd. (B 1,270), 8 & 9, STONECUTTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

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MEMBER OF TATTERSALL'S and Principal Clubs.

Absolutely every match in the 1st, 2nd and Southern Leagues given to choose from.

From THE DAILY EXPRESS, Jan. 13th:—

"On placing the first four in either the Grand National or the Lincolnshire, Mr. Fry offers £500 to 1s.; and it is to be won. Difficult, yes, but the odds laid are 10,000 to 1, and six selections for 5s."

'The Scout' says:

"I put these amounts on with Bert Fry, of Flushing Holland, who is a member of Tattersall's and who pays if he loses. Fortunately, I have evidence that he does."

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The Best Safeguard Against

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The beneficial effect of "Wincarnis" in all cases of nervous breakdown, over-strain, overwork, and especially for Influenza cannot be over-estimated. Medical men recommend it everywhere.

TEST IT FREE TO-DAY.

AFTER FREE TRIAL.—'Wincarnis' can be purchased from chemists and grocers that have wine licences, also wine merchants. It is also sold by the glass and in 1/- flasks at hotels, licensed houses, and railway station refreshment bars. 'Wincarnis' is also prepared with quinine, or iron, or pepsine or celery, all of which are beneficial in suitable cases.

Sign this Coupon

and send with three penny stamps (to cover carriage) to Coleman & Co., Ltd., 249, Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you will receive a Trial Bottle of "Wincarnis," the world's greatest Restorative, Free.

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Address .....

John Bull, February 19, 1910.

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Branches: Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Bristol, etc.

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Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—

Subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal 5 p.c. per ann.

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Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly.

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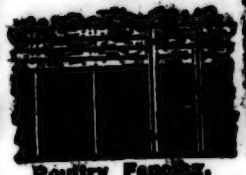
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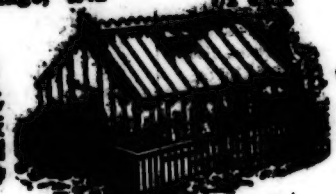
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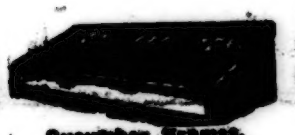
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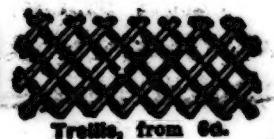
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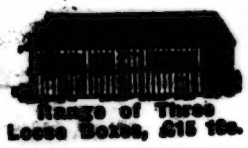
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Guaranteed to Cure or Relieve Colds, Influenza, Gout, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Neuralgia, Constipation, Obesity, Insomnia, Dyspepsia, Asthma, Inflammation of the Lungs, Kidneys, &c.

ALL-NIGHT BATHS—NEVER CLOSED. 91 & 92, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, S.W.

7 Hot Rooms. Russian Bath 35ft. long. Throughout the day, 3/-; throughout the night with bed, 5/-. GENTLEMEN ONLY.

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Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 1 p.m.; up to 6 p.m., 2/6; after 6 p.m., 3/6.
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Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 1 p.m.; up to 6 p.m., 2/6; after 6 p.m., 1/6.
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For Meaning of this No. see Page iii. of Cover.